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EEOC lawsuit settled for $80,000. PAGE 9

Hafa Adai!

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NMI faces uncertain future as transition phase expires

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres told members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce that the CNMI faces an uncertain future after Dec. 31, 2019, the deadline of the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker nonimmigrant visa or CW program.

The CW-1 program would have supposedly ended in 2014, a five-year period only, but got extended to 2019. The CNMI, however, would be facing a workforce shortage with the CW program about to expire in two years while developments and other investment are coming in.

Torres, who spoke to Chamber members last February, repeated what he had said in yesterday's meeting where he also encouraged businesses to bring in more U.S. citizens

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OAG: Hocog did nothing wrong

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has asserted that Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog did nothing wrong over the transfer of $400,000 in government funds to Luta Mermaid LLC, that owns the cargo ship M/V *Luta*, as he was only involved as a then-Rota senator over the passage of a resolution, which is not an appropriations bill.

Hocog

OAG Civil Division chief Christopher M. Timmons, counsel for Hocog in his personal capacity, said that former Department of Public Lands Secretary John DelRosario's Government Ethics Code Act claims are predicated upon a misperception that Hocog authorized a loan to his relative.

Timmons discussed Rota Local Delegation Resolution 19-3 in Hocog's objection and opposition to DelRosario's motion to disqualify the OAG as counsel for Hocog in his personal capacity.

OAG Solicitor Division chief James M. Zarones, counsel for Hocog and Department of Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, joined in

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Fernandez: I'm a proven president

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Fernandez

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez said everybody is entitled to their own opinion, but she won't allow the criticisms to get in the way of her doing her job.

She said this yesterday at the

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SCHOOL VISIT

Students of the Saipan SDA School meet with Sparky, the mascot of the CNMI Fire Department and Emergency Services, on Wednesday afternoon. The students excitedly gathered to hear a special presentation on fire safety. The guest firefighters shared the importance of fire safety and how it can affect daily life. As interesting and informative as the presentation was, the children were really itching to investigate the three vehicles (two firetrucks and one ambulance) that were parked on the school lawn. As the students paid visits to each vehicle they were taught the uses of each one and given a taste of the jobs that go with them. The children had hands-on time with everything, from stethoscopes to firefighter uniforms. Many had the chance to see inside the ambulance and ask all the questions they could think of. To cap off the afternoon, the fire fighters fired up the big red truck and demonstrated what all had been waiting for: the fire hose.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

AT FIRST CNMI DRUG COURT STAKEHOLDERS PRESENTATION

Increase seen in number of babies born to drug-using moms

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has noted an increase in the number of babies born to mothers who had used an illicit and/or non-illicit drug during their pregnancy.

Shawnalei Ogumoro, the CHCC State Systems Development Initiative project coordinator, noted that the increase is attributed to mothers who "self-report" their drug use upon labor and delivery at the Commonwealth Healthcare Center.

There are probably many more mothers who choose not to inform CHC doctors or nurses about their

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Google ratchets up its rivalry with Apple and Amazon.

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Philippine leader Rodrigo Duterte tells President Barack Obama "you can go to hell."

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More than 1 million pangolins have been poached in the past decade, threatening it with extinction.

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Local

Bill seeks to help raise oral cancer awareness

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) has introduced a bill to provide funding to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Dental Clinic and the Commonwealth Cancer Association for the prevention of oral cancer. The funding would also cover care, treatment, diagnosis, and other related patient services for the disease.

House Bill 19-200 aims to appropriate $400,000 from the Cancer Fund Special Account to expand and support CHCC and CCA's various oral cancer awareness, detection, and prevention programs.

The CHCC dental clinic is the only public health dental clinic in the CNMI that tries to address oral and primary care, community-based prevention programs for underprivileged individuals, and other services that would establish or expand oral health.

"The Legislature further finds that oral cancer screenings for all patients seen at the CHCC Dental Clinic in response to the high rate of oral cancer in the CNMI," wrote Demapan on his bill that was introduced last Monday.

"Studies show that early detection of cancer and precancerous tissue result in better treatment outcomes. Therefore, it is vital that our community is able to access oral health services and be provided the much-needed education regarding oral cancer prevention and detection."

CCA promotes awareness on the different types of cancers and have various programs when it comes to information dissemination as well as providing patient support, care, and treatment.

"Therefore, it is vital to ensure the community to have the resources and support needed to increase cancer awareness and other support services to battle this deadly disease," said Demapan.

CHCC Dental Clinic will receive $100,000 for its operations while $300,000 will be given to CCA for its patient support services with the First and Second Senatorial Districts, Rota and Tinian, allocated $50,000 each.

Oral cancer was listed as the third leading type of cancer in the CNMI where 57 cases have been detected since 2007, with 39 having already died. Studies showed that betel nut chewing also causes cancer, hence Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' decision to sign HB 19-65.

Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) authored HB 19-65 that prohibits the sale, offer or giving of areca nut (betel nut) to minors. It became Public Law 19-66. Some in the CNMI start chewing as early as 12 years old, based on surveys and separate studies done in the Commonwealth.

2ND ROTA COCONUT FESTIVAL CONTESTS

ESFDB students excel in Rota contests

Last week the 2nd Rota Coconut Festival concluded with various activities ranging from hut building, food making, and photo taking, to poster and essay contests.

This year's contest theme was "The Tree of Life" – "Trongkun Lina'la."

During the festivities, the event committee announced the winners of the essay, poster, and song contests.

Three students from Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja were selected.

Edward U. Maratita III took first place in the poster contest for the kindergarten to 3rd grade category.

Autumn Pasensia T. Hocog won third place in the essay contest under the 4th to 6th grade category.

Michael Jon Cantil won first place in the song contest for the youth division.

The essay and poster contest must focus on the theme, while the song competition had an island theme.

Sixth grader Michael Jon T. Cantil sings *Hometown Rota* composed by Walter Manglona.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Using their own words, images, creativity, and singing talent, the students wrote, drew, and sang what the contest theme meant to them.

"I didn't expect to win. I submitted my essay for class participation, not knowing what the outcome might be," said Hocog.

Maratita echoed the same sentiments. "It was all about participating and I also learned more about the usefulness of coconut trees."

"I love singing and I love representing my school. I was happy and glad to sing *Hometown Rota* by Walter Manglona. Also, it's an opportunity for me to showcase my singing talent," said Cantil.

"The essay, poster, and singing contest is a great opportunity for students to reflect on the wide spectrum of Rota's identity, from our traditional hut building to the iconic resources such as our abundance of coconut trees around the island," said administrator/principal Carmen H. Atalig.

Fifth grader Autumn T. Hocog, top photo, and third grader Edward U. Maratita III, bottom photo, pose with Rota officials after being presented with their certificates and prizes.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"Congratulations to the winners and participants, and I hope that all of the students gained a deeper appreciation for their island through their

See ESFDB on Page 4

Students of Golden Harvest International School win big again

Students of Golden Harvest International School won big again at the PGFC Competition held last Saturday, Oct. 1, 2016, at San Antonio Middle School. The successful winners are:

K-2 Division		
Choral Speaking	3rd Place	Terell Earl Hix
		Stephanie Joyce Sevilla
		Princess Nicole Rigua
		Andre Amour Zapata
		Austyn Transmano
	4th Place	Arthur Angel Deliva
		Gregorio Romolor
		Jan Alverne Santos
		Dane Tibayan
DUO	1st Place	Dane Tibayan
		Arthur Angel Deliva
	5th Place	Melodie Mae Epan
		Carlin Mei Santos
RF-CH	1st Place	Gregorio Romolor
	2nd Place	Vhonn Vincent Flandez
	3rd Place	Terell Earl Hix
HI	2nd Place	Princess Nicole Rigua
	4th Place	Vhonn Vincent Flandez
	5th Place	Carlin Mei Santos
3-5 Division		
DUO	1st Place	Jan Andrei Dumagan
		Ezekiel Rhopher Joson
CHORAL SPEAKING	2nd Place	Tamia Lei Hix
		Ernest Licop
		Orlrich Bantolino
RF-CH	2nd Place	Quinn Thomas Palacios
	3rd Place	Tamia Lei Hix

Congratulations to all the winners and special mention to the teachers and staff of Golden Harvest International School as well as the parents who served as volunteer judges for their full cooperation, patience, and efforts to make the competition a successful one. ***(PR)***

AS DISPUTED COMPANY'S FUNDS, STOCK OWNERSHIP RESOLVED

Judge Manglona orders release of $224,548

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered the clerk of court yesterday to release the $224,548.07 that were disputed by some shareholders of a company and dragged a bank to a lawsuit.

Manglona directed the clerk of court to release $20,000 to First Hawaiian Bank for its reasonable attorneys' fees, and the remaining $204,548.07 to Universal Group Development Inc. through its president, Wanzhong Yu.

Manglona dismissed the lawsuit and all claims and cross-claims and directed the clerk to close the case.

The judge issued the release of the money and the dismissal of the case at the parties' request.

The underlying issue in this case, the true ownership of 440,000 shares of Universal Group's stock and the $224,548.07 has been resolved in favor of Yu as its president.

In April 2015, Manglona ordered First Hawaiian Bank to deposit with the court the disputed $224,548.07 in Universal Group's maximizer savings account.

Manglona issued the order after the parties in the lawsuit signed a stipulation in which they agreed to deposit funds with the court.

FHB, Universal Group, and Yu, through their respective counsels, entered the agreement to deposit the money.

Last March, Manglona issued a default judgment and awarded Yu $125,699.60 in damages.

Yu alleged that he was detained in China for 22 months, caused by political influence exerted by his former business partners on Saipan.

Manglona issued a default judgment in favor of Yu and against Mingnan Jin and Jinwei Guo.

Universal Group, through its then-counsel Samuel Mok, sued Yu for conversion and First Hawaiian Bank for breach of contract.

Universal Group alleged that Yu and the bank have blocked the company from gaining access to its $225,000 of its own funds from a business savings account.

Yu, through counsel Mark Scoggins, filed a cross-claim, alleging he was wrongfully detained in China for 22 months, caused by political influence exerted by his former business partners. Yu named Jin and Guo as defendants in his cross-claim.

Jin and Guo were then claiming as the officers and directors of Universal Group and that Guo is now the sole shareholder.

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OAG

From Page 1

Timmons' objection and opposition.

Attorney Jennifer Dockter, counsel for DelRosario, asserted that although it was an impermissible appropriation, it was an attempted appropriation nonetheless.

Dockter said that simply tacking another name to the action does not change the substance of the act.

Dockter said the OAG has a quagmire of conflict in this case as they have three named clients: Hocog in his official capacity, Hocog in his personal capacity, and Larson in her official capacity.

She said OAG also has a fourth client, although not specifically named in this matter: Commonwealth citizens.

The Superior Court will hear today, Thursday, the motion to disqualify the OAG and the motion to dismiss DelRosario's lawsuit.

Last May, DelRosario filed a taxpayer's lawsuit against Hocog and Larson over the alleged adoption of a Rota Legislative Delegation Resolution 19-3 without public notice that purportedly authorized payment of $400,000 to Luta Mermaid LLC, a private company owned by Hocog's relatives.

DelRosario is suing Hocog and Larson for breach of fiduciary duties, and expenditure of public funds for an improper purpose. In addition, Hocog is being sued for violation of the Open Government Act.

DelRosario wants the OAG disqualified from serving as counsel for Hocog and Larson.

Timmons argued that there must be an appropriation to authorize an expenditure of public funds. Local appropriations bills must originate in the House of Representatives, Timmons said, and must specify the matter that may be the subject of laws enacted by the members of the respective senatorial district.

The OAG Civil Division chief cited that the audio recording of the meeting in question makes it clear that the Rota local delegation understood that Resolution 19-3 was not an appropriation bill but a resolution.

He said Rota local delegation Resolution 19-3 was not and is not an appropriations bill.

"Resolutions are statements of policy or expressions of the will of the resolving body unless they relate solely to the body's internal procedures, " said Timmons, citing the analysis of NMI Constitution.

He said Rota delegation Resolution 19-3 has no legal effect and did not confer a benefit upon Hocog's relatives, or upon anyone else.

"This certainly is not the proper basis for assertion of a violation of the Government Ethics Code Act," Timmons said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

ESFDB

From Page 2

participation," added Atalig.

"The contest theme opens the doors of young minds, enabling the students to be creative, thoughtful and introspective in their work," said board chair Edward Maratita Jr. "The contest is a creative way to encourage students to become resourceful [and] firmly grounded in the traditional Chamorro culture."

The students were awarded certificates and cash prizes.

The administration, faculty, staff, and board of directors would like to extend their appreciation to the parents, Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig and staff, 15th Rota Municipal Council, Rota-DCCA resident director Magdelena Mesngon, and Rota PSS board representative Tanya King. ***(ESFDB)***

INCREASE

From Page 1

drug use but this behavior is "suspected," Ogumoro said.

Ogumoro and CHC chief OB/GYN Dr. Jeanolivia Grant discussed the topic of "drug use and babies and prenatal methamphetamine exposure" during the first CNMI Drug Court Stakeholders Presentation co-hosted by the Office of the Governor and CNMI Judiciary at Fiesta Resort and Spa's Hibiscus Hall on Tuesday.

"We have little number to share, but I feel that our little number is a lot and the trend is going to continue. That's why we are thankful to share this information," Ogumoro said.

What they noticed with the women who did "self-report" their drug use is that methamphetamine or "ice" is their No. 1 choice of illicit drugs, followed by marijuana.

Ogumoro said the common choice of mothers using non-illicit drugs is cigarettes, followed by alcohol.

She disclosed that in 2014 the number of mothers who self-reported drug use during pregnancy was only one, and in 2015 there were two.

She said they are not done yet in 2016, but they already have five mothers.

Ogumoro said the adverse effects are death due to sudden infant death syndrome, growth restriction, early deliveries, admission to Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and an unstable home environment.

She pointed out that the cost of an infant admitted at NICU is $1,000 a day, so for about two to four weeks the cost would be about $14,000 to $28,000.

Dr. Grant said that according to the National Institute on Drug

Use, the risks of "ice" abuse during pregnancy are premature delivery, placental abruption, intrauterine growth restriction, lethargy, heart and brain abnormalities, and neurobehavioral problems.

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio, herself a Drug Court judge, gave an overview of the CNMI Drug Court Division, saying its mission is to improve the lives of individuals and their family by providing a multidisciplinary approach, integrating evidence-based and culturally sensitive treatment services and promoting sobriety and positive behaviors.

Kim-Tenorio said the primary goals include promoting public safety, reducing recidivism, and promoting rehabilitation.

The judge also explained how drug courts work, among other things.

CNMI Drug Court coordinator TaAnn T. Kabua said in an interview that the CNMI Drug Court seminar is in preparation for the implementation of drug court services.

"We want to inform the community, especially our community partners, about the drug court, to give them an understanding of the model that we are going to implement and what services or support we're going to need from our stakeholders to make it a success," Kabua said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

NMI

From Page 1

to their workforce or avail of other visa types for their foreign employees.

"When I was before the Chamber in February, I said that we must accept the fact that although we will do all we can to protect the availability of foreign workers in the CNMI, we cannot be certain what will happen after the immigration transition phase expires," said Torres.

"I asked all of you as our business leaders to prioritize U.S. citizens and [local] residents in our workforce," added Torres, when he again addressed Chamber members yesterday during their monthly meeting at the Pacific Islands Club-Saipan's Charley's Cabaret.

He said the last three months have been a challenging phase for the CNMI in terms of labor issues, with some employees under the CW program forced to go back to their respective countries after the fiscal year 2016 cap was reached.

"These past few months offered a dramatic reminder of the vulnerability we all operate in. The success of our private sector allows for success in the public sector, and when you do not have the labor to run your operations, we have less to contribute to meeting the needs of our students, our public safety, and our basic infrastructure," Torres said.

He said the business gross revenue tax dramatically increased last May, amounts that the CNMI had never seen before, but that dropped once the CW issue worsened. "We took that data and showed it to the people in [Washington] D.C."

"When you see our workforce increase, it drives our revenue. But if it reaches that peak (cap), it drops down because how would your business progress if you don't have the workforce? The statistics were critical, so we really need to work together."

Torres said the CW issue was one of the things that he and the CNMI panel brought up to their counterparts with the federal side, led by Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas Esther Kia'ana.

"The 902 talks is the avenue that should not be taken for granted. It happens once every 10 years where all our issues could be addressed. These people have never been to Saipan, they are the ones who will be making decisions. Now it was not one-sided since they saw and heard our problems and issues firsthand," said Torres.

"The reality of the shortfall of our workforce is real and not imaginary. If they don't help us, it would also affect us. What we're asking the federal government is to give us something that we have to improve our economy. The report is a package that would be sent to President Barrack Obama."

Back to start

SCC president Velma Palacios said business leaders in the CNMI support Torres and Delegate Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) proposals of increasing the cap to 18,000 and for another 10-year extension of the immigration transition.

Failure to address the problems would affect the CNMI's economy that had made a dramatic rebound after close to 10 years of being stagnant. "If we don't do something about it, we're back to where we started."

The Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands, the Society for Human Resource Management-CNMI Chapter, and the Strategic Economic Development Council along with SCC are working with Torres and Sablan.

"We've been working together in efforts to address our workforce issues. Once the cap is again reached, we will be in the same situation where more of our foreign workers are leaving the islands. We must find a solution, either immediate or long-term," said Palacios.

USCIS had already approved 4,661 applicants for fiscal year 2017 while 5,595 are still pending for a total of 10,256 based on date released last Sept. 20. There are only 2,742 slots left to be filled.

Palacios said that even Marianas Visitors Authority chair Marian Aldan-Pierce mentioned that the problem would not only affect the administration or the business sector but the entire CNMI.

"Many businesses struggled with their operations after some of their employees have had to leave the CNMI. We continue to encourage the business community to utilize other applicable visa categories for their foreign workers."

FERNANDEZ

From Page 1

NMC campus in As Teo after being warmly welcomed by students, faculty, and staff.

"I am so honored and overjoyed to be back home at the college. I love the college so much and I'm so happy that God has given me this opportunity and the board has given me the trust and confidence to be able to come back and complete the dreams, priorities, and goals that I have for the college," said Fernandez.

She also touched on the Board of Regents and said, "I think everyone would work well together. Once the board makes a decision, they need to be unified after the decision is made. So certainly I'm sure we're going to have a good working relationship."

A former president and now current president of the CNMI's lone community college, Fernandez said that she was the most qualified candidate. "Actually I came out to be the highest qualified candidate. I did very well in terms of my qualifications as well as my interviews with the board, so I went through the process. Certainly, I'm a proven president," she added.

Fernandez also reminded everyone of her past accomplishments, saying she is already looking forward to NMC's future.

"I'm the president that led the college to reaffirmation in 2009, so there are many accomplishments. Now going forward, there's much more work for the college to do, especially in regards to helping the training and development of the workforce. I really look forward to working with everyone, and every individual is entitled to their own opinion, so I respect that, but certainly if the people would give me a chance they'll see all of the improvements that will occur here in the college."

According to Fernandez, the main priority of NMC would be accreditation. "We're having a special visit, so accreditation is absolutely the top priority. For accreditation, in order to be fully accredited, you must be compliant with standards at all times, so certainly we have to get ready. If the visiting team comes and finds something out of standard, then it could be a problem for us. So we really have to get ready for this special visit and it's going to be a lot of time to make sure that we review everything, make sure we're up to standard for everything, to make sure that we are well prepared for that visit," said Fernandez.

Despite being criticized by Northern Marianas Trades Institution CEO Agnes McPhetres, Fernandez said that she still wants to maintain a healthy relationship with NMTI.

"I want to say that I look forward to working closely with NMTI and supporting NMTI with their initiatives. I intend to partner with them, and former NMC president McPhetres is entitled to her opinion as well, and I respect it, but that is not going to stop me from reaching out to NMTI and the college giving their support to NMTI," said Fernandez.

Fernandez has a busy month ahead, moving back into office and even plans on meeting the government with regards to NMC's future.

"Starting next week I will begin my external meetings. This week I'm focusing on the campus, students, faculty, and staff, so next week I'll be going to Rota and Tinian to meet the people there, and so next week I intend to have meetings with NMTI, [Public School System], the Legislature, and of course the Executive Branch."

Fernandez was offered the job after the Board of Regents meeting last Sept. 30 and started her first day in office last Tuesday, Oct. 4.

Scheduled power outage on Saturday at Kiya 2

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said there will be a scheduled power interruption on Saturday, Oct. 8, 2016, from 7:30am to 2:30pm.

The purpose of the power interruption is to de-energize the primary lines to allow the CUC line crew to safely replace four deteriorated primary power poles. Two primary poles will be replaced at the intersection of Agingan Point and two other primary poles will be replaced in front of the former U.I.C. garment factory in San Antonio.

Areas to be affected are the Kiya 2 (last partial): Koblerville (Agingan Point, Mobil gas station); San Antonio Village, Afetnas (the former Join Us Store to Lower Afetnas); and Chalan Piao (Shoda's lateral).

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, travelers are asked to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor their Facebook page for the latest updates. ***(CUC)***

Curbing the coconut rhinoceros beetle in the Pacific

SUVA, Fiji—The Pacific Community is taking proactive measures to assist Samoa and other Pacific Island countries and territories in their efforts to curb any resurgence of the coconut rhinoceros beetle.

SPC, with support from AgResearch New Zealand, has dispatched to Samoa's Ministry of Agriculture 1,000 sachets of male aggregate pheromones, called Oryctalure, to trap these beetles (Oryctes rhinoceros) which can cause severe damage when they bore into the crowns of coconut palms to feed on sap.

Coconut palms cover around 30 percent of Samoa's land mass and contribute SAT$8 million annually to the Pacific Island nation's economy.

In 2007 the total value of exports of coconut products from Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa and Kiribati was valued at €14.4 million.

The use of male aggregate pheromones, such as Oryctalure, has proven effective in suppressing the beetle's population and could assist in preventing the spread of a new strain, called the Guam biotype.

The Guam biotype beetle, believed to be highly invasive and capable of inflicting severe damage to palms, poses a real threat to food security and socio-economic development of Pacific Island nations.

"This new strain of coconut rhinoceros beetle is already present in Guam, the mainland of Papua New Guinea, Palau, Hawaii and Guadalcanal in Solomon Islands and comprehensive research is needed to determine the effectiveness of different pheromones on different beetle biotypes," SPC entomologist Dr. Maclean Vaqalo explained.

"One sachet of the pheromones we have sent to Samoa's Ministry of Agriculture can last up to three months in a trap, depending on environmental conditions. This is an immediate measure that will be used as an early warning system to monitor the likely presence of the Guam biotype, especially at high quarantine risk areas," Vaqalo said.

Coconut and similar palms thrive in regions where there is no cold season and minimal dry season and, as a result, the coconut rhinoceros beetles are able to reproduce throughout the year.

"SPC, with support from regional scientists, has recently drafted a regional approach to effectively control this new strain of beetle which addresses emergence response and quarantine awareness, exploration of effective biological control measures, and outreach to farming communities to adopt integrated pest management best practices," Vaqalo said.

The regional approach was agreed to and supported by plant protectionists in the region during the Pacific Plant Protection Organization and Regional Technical Meeting of Plant Protection meetings held in Nadi, Fiji, in September 2015.

"We're also providing technical advice and assistance on biosecurity, quarantine and integrated pest management measures for the coconut rhinoceros beetle," Vaqalo said.

The regional approach in the area of biosecurity awareness, emergence response and management of the beetle biotypes in the region will only work well if funding is forthcoming to implement the work plan.

SPC looks forward to working with Pacific countries and territories, as well as scientific institutions and fund donors from within the region and abroad to address the regional approach. ***(SPC)***

Rota sobriety checkpoints

The Department of Public Safety and Rota Department of Public Safety will be conducting sobriety checkpoint on Oct. 6 and 8, 2016.

On Oct. 6, 2016, there will be three sobriety checkpoints conducted along San Francisco de Borja Highway, Sinapalo to San Francisco de Borja Highway, Songsong from 5pm to 11pm.

On Oct. 8, 2016, there will be three sobriety checkpoints along San Francisco de Borja Highway, Songsong to San Francisco de Borja Highway, Sinapalo from 5pm to 10pm.

Each sobriety checkpoints will be in operational for 1 hour and 15 minutes or 75 minutes.

Also, police officers will be conducting highway criminal interdiction during the daytime and nighttime. They will be concentrating on high crime areas and do saturation patrol.

Should you have any question, contact Sgt. Jarod Manglona at (670) 783-0212. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Bldg.#1356 Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill,
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone Nos. (670) 664-3196 Fax phone No. (670) 664-3197

EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

THE CNMI DEPARTMENT OF LABOR OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY ISSUES THE FOLLOWING

MORATORIUM NOTICE
on

N.M.I. ADMINISTRATIVE CODE CHAPTER 80 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, SUB-CHAPTER 80-20.1 EMPLOYMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS § 80-20.1-210 (C) (3) Exemptions from Workforce Participation § 80-20.1-215 (b) Particular Construction Project. Exemptions issued prior to this notice remains in effect until their expiration date.

This moratorium notice shall be in effect until such time that the CNMI Secretary of Labor publishes a new notice on this matter.

Police now hunting for ex-firefighter Koshiba

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Police are now hunting former firefighter Jergerson Techur Koshiba because he could not be found and served with an arrest warrant after he was released Monday from the Department of Corrections.

CNMI Crime Stoppers Program coordinator Jason Tarkong said yesterday that Koshiba, a Palauan national, is at large and that law enforcement officers are searching for him.

Tarkong said Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho signed an arrest warrant for Koshiba on Monday after the Office of the Attorney General filed a new information charging him with sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree. His bail was set at $100,000 cash.

Koshiba

"If spotted, do not approach him. Call 911 or Crime Stoppers should you wish to remain anonymous," Tarkong said.

DOC released a picture of the 43-year-old Koshiba on Monday shortly after Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo ordered his immediate release from DOC's custody.

That same day, Monday, the OAG filed the new information against Koshiba.

Govendo ordered Koshiba's immediate release because the offense of disturbing the peace carries a maximum sentence of six months and the defendant has been incarcerated at DOC since Feb. 27, 2016.

Govendo decided the misdemeanor charge of disturbing the peace during last week's trial.

On Friday, Govendo adjudged Koshiba guilty of disturbing the peace and sentenced him to six months imprisonment, with credit for 218 days time served.

The judge declared a mistrial after the jury failed to reach a unanimous verdict on the count of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

Defense attorney Joaquin DLG Torres, counsel for Koshiba, argued that his client should be immediately released after Friday's mistrial because the court has no more jurisdiction in this case.

The government accused Koshiba of touching the private part of a 9-year-old girl at a residence in Navy Hill last Feb. 26. The trial commenced last Sept. 26 and concluded on Friday.

Commerce extends public input on project ideas for CEDS

Members of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Commission and the CNMI Department of Commerce recently held public hearings on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to gain public input on the development of the project's ranking matrix. The matrix presented at the public hearings will be the evaluation tool that the CEDS Commission will use to evaluate and rank the various project listings submitted by various government agencies.

Commerce has allowed for public input to be submitted through a dedicated website, www.cnmiceds.com. While the window has closed to submit comments on the ranking matrix, the department is extending the deadline for the public to submit project ideas for consideration by the CEDS Commission to close on Oct. 10, 2016.

"The department, in alignment with Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres' directive, is taking every effort to maximize public input in this critical project. Not only are we holding public hearings but through the project's dedicated website, it allows the general public to view meeting notes and presentations held by the CEDS Commission. More importantly, the website allows us to document all public input for inclusion in the final published report," said Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman.

The CNMI's CEDS is a federally funded project through the U.S. Economic Development Administration. The report is intended to map out public project priorities through an objective ranking matrix evaluated by a panel of commission members. The re-

See COMMERCE on Next Page

APEX BUILDERS, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(01) Machinist - $6.60-$7.00/hour
Set up and operate a variety of machine tools to produce precision parts and instruments. Includes precision instrument makers who fabricate, modify or repair. Must be a high graduate or minimum 5year's experience as a Machinist.

(2) Sales Person - $6.55- $6.60 per hour
Must be a high/ college graduate or minimum 2-5year's experience as a Sales Person. Sell merchandise, such as light and heavy vehicles, motor vehicles parts, H. E. parts, appliances, to consumers. Describe merchandise and explain use, operation.

(06) Auto Body Repairer $6.60 - $7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum 2 years' experience as Auto Body Repairer. With knowledge how to repair and refinish automotive vehicle bodies and straighten vehicle frames.

(06) Plumber $6.55 - $7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years experienced as a plumber with knowledge to assemble, install alter and repair pipelines or pipe systems that carry water, steam, air or other liquids or gases. May install heating and cooling equipment and mechanical control systems and sprinkler fitters.

(03) Painter $6.60 - $7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum 5 years experience as Painter. Knowledgeable on how to operate/tend various painting machines. Able to paint transportation equipment surfaces, such as automobiles, buses, trucks, trains, boats, airplanes ad etc.

(20) Carpenter $6.60 - $7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum 5 years experience as a Carpenter. With knowledge how to construct, erect, install, or repair structures and fixtures made of wood, such as concrete forms; building frameworks, including partitions, joists, studding, and rafters; and wood stairways, window and door frames, and hardwood floors.

(03) Automobile Electrician $6.60 - $7.50/hour
Must have at least 5 years work related experience. Able to diagnose and undertake electrical repairs on a wide variety of vehicles and heavy equipment. With knowledge on electric motor, alternator, starter and motor rewinding.

(16) Electrician $6.60 - $7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years experience as Electrician. With knowledge on how to install, maintain, and repair electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Able to install or service street lights, intercom systems, or electrical control systems.

(20) Heavy Equipment Mechanic $6.60 - $7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as Heavy Equipment Mechanic. With knowledge how to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automobiles, hydraulic, and pneumatic equipment, such as cranes, bulldozers, graders, excavators, trucks and conveyors, typically used in constructions.

(20) Heavy Equipment Operator $6.10 - $7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years' experience as HE Operator. With knowledge how to operate several types of power construction equipment, such as motor graders, bulldozers, trenching machine, scrapers, compressors, pumps, derricks, shovels, tractors, or front-end loaders to excavate, move, and grade earth, erect structures, or pour concretes and etc.

(20) Mason $6.60– 7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 3 years experience as Mason. With knowledge how to do smooth and finish surfaces of poured concrete, such as floors, walks, sidewalks, roads, or curbs using a variety of hand and power tools. Align forms for sidewalks, curbs, or gutters; patch voids; and use saws to cut expansion joints.

(6) Plumber $6.60-7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as a Plumber. With knowledge how to assemble, install, alter, and repair pipelines or pipe systems that carry water, steam, air, or other liquids or gases. Able to install heating and cooling equipment and mechanical control systems.

(20) Welder $6.6.60-$7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years experience as a Welder. With knowledge how to use hand-welding, flame-cutting, hand soldering, or brazing equipment to weld or join metal components or to fill holes, indentations, or seams of fabricated metal products.

(02) Diesel Mechanic $6.6.60-$7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years experience as a Diesel Mechanic. To diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul buses and trucks or maintain and repair any type of diesel engines. Includes mechanics working primarily with automobile or marine diesel.

(02) Architectural Drafter Technician $6.60-7.50 hour
College graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience as an Architectural Technician. Capable of preparing detailed drawings of architectural/structural features of buildings as well as drawings and photographic relief maps used in civil engineering projects such as highways, bridges and other public works. Knowledgeable on building materials engineering practices/mathematics used to complete drawings drafts.

Salary deduction: FICA (SS & Medicare) and CNMI Local tax (chapter 2)

Benefits: Workmen's compensation insurance.

Salaries will commensurate to experience and qualifications.

All of the above positions must be able to work flexible time.
Interested applicants may apply at Apex Builder's Inc. office located at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills, testing maybe required.
Apex Builder's Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Closing Date: October 12, 2016

GPPC, INC. Job Opening:

Civil Engineering Technicians (3) $6.60 - 10.25/hour
Must be a college graduate with minimum of 2- years experience as a Civil Engineering Technician with knowledge how to apply Theory and Principles of Civil Engineering in planning, designing and overseeing construction, structure maintenance and facilities under the directions of engineering staff or physical scientists.

Mechanical Engineering Technicians (02) $6.60 - 7.50/hour
Must be a college graduate with minimum of 2 years' experience as a Mechanical Engineering Technician with knowledge on how to apply Theory and Principles of Mechanical Engineering in planning, designing and overseeing construction, structure maintenance and other facilities under the directions of engineering staff or physical scientists.

Electrical Engineering Technicians (01) $6.60 - 7.50/hour
Must be a college graduate with minimum of 2 years' experience as a Electrical Engineering Technician with knowledge on how to apply Theory and Principles of Electrical Engineering in planning, designing and overseeing construction, structure maintenance and other facilities under the directions of engineering staff or physical scientists.

Machinist (01) $6.60 - 7.00/hour
Set up and operate a variety of machine tools to produce precision parts and instruments. Includes precision instrument makers who fabricate, modify or repair. Must be a high graduate or minimum 5year's experience as a Machinist.

Sales Person (2) $6.55 - 6.60/hour
Must be a high/ college graduate or minimum 2-5year's experience as a Sales Person. Sell mdse, such as light and heavy vehicles, motor vehicles parts, H. E. parts, appliances, to consumers. Describe mdse and explain use, operation.

Auto Body Repairer (06) $6.60 - $7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum 2 years' experience as Auto Body Repairer. With knowledge how to repair and refinish automotive vehicle bodies and straighten vehicle frames.

Truck Driver (02) $6.60 - $7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2-5 years experiences as a Truck Driver with knowledge on how to drive a Tractor Trailer or Trucks that has a capacity of at least 26,000 GVW for various construction materials transportation

Plumber (06) $6.55 - $7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years experienced as a plumber with knowledge to assemble, install alter and repair pipelines or pipe systems that carry water, steam, air or other liquids or gases. May install heating and cooling equipment and mechanical control systems and sprinkler fitters.

Painter (05) $6.60 - $7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum 5 years experience as Painter. Knowledgeable on how to operate/tend various painting machines. Able to paint transportation equipment surfaces, such as automobiles,buses,trucks,trains,boats,airplanes ad etc.

Carpenter (20) $6.60 - $7:50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum 5 years experience as a Carpenter, With knowledge how to construct, erect, install, or repair structures and fixtures made of wood, such as concrete forms; building frameworks, including partitions, joists, studding, and rafters; and wood stairways, window and door frames, and hardwood floors.

Automobile Electrician (03) $6.60 - $7.50/hour
Must have at least 5 years work related experience. Able to diagnose and undertake electrical repairs on a wide variety of vehicles and heavy equipment. With knowledge on electric motor, alternator, starter and motor rewinding.

Electrician (10) $6.60 - $7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years experience as Electrician. With knowledge on how to install, maintain, and repair electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Able to install or service street lights, intercom systems, or electrical control systems.

Heavy Equipment Mechanic (20) $6.60 - $7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as Heavy Equipment Mechanic. With knowledge how to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automobiles, hydraulic, and pneumatic equipment, such as cranes, bulldozers, graders, excavators, trucks and conveyors, typically used in constructions.

Heavy Equipment Operator (20) $6.10 - $7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years' experience as HE Operator. With knowledge how to operate several types of power construction equipment, such as motor graders, bulldozers, trenching machine, scrapers, compressors, pumps, derricks, shovels, tractors, or front-end loaders to excavate, move, and grade earth, erect structures, or pour concretes and etc.

Mason (20) $6.60– 7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 3 years experience as Mason. With knowledge how to do smooth and finish surfaces of poured concrete, such as floors, walks, sidewalks, roads, or curbs using a variety of hand and power tools. Align forms for sidewalks, curbs, or gutters; patch voids; and use saws to cut expansion joints.

Plumber (6) $6.60-7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as a Plumber. With knowledge how to assemble, install, alter, and repair pipelines or pipe systems that carry water, steam, air, or other liquids or gases. Able to install heating and cooling equipment and mechanical control systems.

Welder (20) $6.6.60-$7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years experience as a Welder. With knowledge how to use hand-welding, flame-cutting, hand soldering, or brazing equipment to weld or join metal components or to fill holes, indentations, or seams of fabricated metal products.

Architectural Drafter Technician (02) $6.60-7.50/hour
College graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience as an Architectural Technician. Capable of preparing detailed drawings of architectural/structural features of buildings as well as drawings and photographic relief maps used in civil engineering projects such as highways, bridges and other public works. Knowledgeable on building materials engineering practices/mathematics used to complete drawings drafts.

Tower Crane Operator (02) $6.55 - $7.00/hour
High school graduate with a minimum of 2 years work related experience. Operate mechanical boom and cable or tower and cable equipment to lift and move materials, machines or products in many directions. Determine load weights and check them against lifting capacities to prevent overload Must be able to comply with all safety regulations and work with minimal supervision.

Rigger (02) $6.55-6.60/hour
Must be a high school graduate with 2 years work experience on related field. Set up or repair rigging for construction projects, manufacturing plants, logging yards, ships and shipyards, or for the entertainment industry. Employee must have his/her transportation to and from various job sites. Must be able to comply with all safety regulations and work with minimal supervision.

All of the above positions must be able to work flexible time. Interested applicants may apply at GPPC,INC. office located at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills, testing maybe required. GPPC, INC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Closing Date: October 12, 2016

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Accountant

Bach. degree in acctg. (may be foreign equiv); 5yrs exp. Responsible for effective acctg. system to ensure accurate & up-to-date financial reports of co. engaged in rental & retail svcs. located in Airport Road, Saipan, CNMI. Consolidate, analyze & audit branch oper. to generate branch-wide financial reports. In charge of compliance with govt. reporting req.

Send resume to
Marfega Trading Co., Inc.,
P.O. Box 502356
Saipan, MP 96950

Saipan Adventures, Inc. invites qualified U.S. worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Customer Service Agent (1)
High School Diploma or GED with at least two (2) months work experience in travel/tour operation or sales or service based work environment, room reservations and vendor relations. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Excel, MS Word, Outlook, Power Point). Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes.

Tour Guide (7)
High School Diploma or GED with a minimum of six (6) months to one (1) year experience in travel or tour operation, sales or service related field. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes. Fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese languages.

Interested applicants may send their resumes to savi_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than **October 20, 2016**. Applications for Employment are available at the Front Office of Century Tours Inc. located on the Ground Floor of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Applicants must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Saipan Adventures, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

MVA: Nearly half of budget is for offshore campaigns

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@sapantribune.com
REPORTER

Nearly half of the Marianas Visitors Authority's $15.2 million budget for fiscal year 2017 would be used to shore up its marketing campaigns in Japan, China, Korea, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Russia.

MVA managing director Chris Concepcion shared this as guest speaker in the Rotary Club of Saipan's weekly meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan on Tuesday.

"Forty-nine percent—about $7.9 million—of our budget is going to fund our offices in Japan, China, Korea, Philippines, Taiwan, and Russia. With the transition in Japan and China to new companies that represent the MVA, a big part of our focus, my focus in particular, is to ensure the transition is smooth, and so far so good," said Concepcion.

Concepcion also said that along with the main focus of offshore offices, MVA's budget would also be used for funding annual signature events, sporting events, certification programs, destination enhancements, and even research, which includes valuable statistics for future feasibility studies.

He projected a bright future for the CNMI, a future that is beneficial to the islands economically.

"We expect good, better, brighter things to happen for the CNMI in the next few years, and I think we're on a good path. Things are picking up here economically, and we can see it. Economic activity is really growing big time, and this trend is going to continue," he said.

With the economic boom the CNMI is now facing, Concepcion fears that a lack of accommodation would possibly bottleneck the economic growth.

"A big concern of ours is hotel room availability. We've reached saturation point where hotels pretty much year-round have no low or high season. They're full. So very good for the hotels, very good for the economy, good for the MVA, but in order to bring in more tourists, we need more hotels rooms to open so that new airlines could come in," said Concepcion.

According to Concepcion, MVA is now targeting Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines, and Russia as a group, delegating $2.9 million and representing the MVA through AVIA-MARKETING Reps, along with the rekindling of the Japanese market representing the MVA through Access Inc., with a $2.5-million contract, and mainland China and Hong Kong serviced through Skywalker Communications via a $1.9-million contract.

COMMERCE

From Page 6

vised periodically. The CNMI CEDS has been in development since June of this year.

"While the project listings are primarily composed of public projects, we have added a link on the CEDS website for private citizens who would like the commission to consider other project ideas. It should be noted that as the CEDS documents is considered during the EDA funding process, privately held projects generally will not qualify for grant funding through this agency; however, we want to ensure that we do not overlook any ideas or projects," said Rabauliman. ***(Office of the Governor)***

Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. (ExxonMobil) is a subsidiary of Exxon Mobil Corporation – the world's largest publicly traded international oil and gas company, which holds an industry-leading inventory of resources and is one of the world's largest integrated refiners, marketers of petroleum products, and chemical manufacturers. This is your opportunity to join this dynamic company and become part of the team that thrives in a fast-paced, controls-oriented environment as:

Terminal Operator - Rota

Job Description:
Performs day-to-day activities to safely operate a petroleum distribution facility. Maintains SSH&E (Safety, Security, Health, and Environment) standards pursuant to local and federal regulations and ExxonMobil's policies, procedures, and guidelines. Performs operations of marine tanker receiving, bunkering, tank truck loading, pipeline transfer, product quality testing, handling and storage of bulk and packaged petroleum products while delivering premier product quality and customer service.

Location:
- Rota Bulk Plant, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands

Job Duties:
- Executes and complies with ExxonMobil's operational procedures, systems, policies, and guidelines by using terminal manuals and procedures, loss prevention tools, and corporate & industry standards.
- Conducts routine facility inspections. Maintains housekeeping and conducts maintenance and repairs to ensure safe operating conditions.
- Performs safe marine terminal operations, shore-to-ship and ship-to-shore transfers of bulk petroleum products, tank truck loading, pipeline transfers, and product quality testing.
- Adheres to safety and environmental programs. Takes a dynamic and proactive approach to protect the environment and the safety, health, and security of employees, customers, and the public.
- Administratively prepares and submits regulatory and internal reports associated with the handling, storage, and product movement of the petroleum distribution terminal. Performs oil loss monitoring duties.
- Interfaces with third-party contractors, local and federal government agencies, internal and external customers, and ExxonMobil's global network system.
- Conducts simple math calculations and conversions of temperature, weights, and measures.

Qualifications / Skills required:
- Experience in safe petroleum handling, distribution and storage or related field
- Minimum educational background - high school diploma or equivalent
- Familiarity with computer applications in spreadsheet and word processing (i.e., MS Word and Excel)
- Understanding of U.S. federal and local regulations as applicable to petroleum handling, storage, and distribution
- Ability to work shifts based on a 24-hour work day, work extended hours, weekends, and holidays
- Good interpersonal skills, ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing in English

Preference will be given to candidates with the following skills:
- Experience in marine terminal operations
- Previous experience in petroleum handling and storage
- Previous experience in petroleum industry

If you are interested in and/or meet the qualifications for this position, please submit your resume on or before October 13, 2016 to the following:

Attention:
Maria P. Kemp, Field Operations Manager-CNMI
P.O. Box 500367 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Fax: (670) 236-8190
Email: maria.kemp@exxonmobil.com

ExxonMobil is an Equal Opportunity Employer

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, protected veteran or disability status.

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Oleai Branch, Oleai Center, Beach Road Chalan Laulau • Tel: (670) 234-6559 Fax: (670) 236-8936

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1 The minimum deposit to open an account and obtain the $20 discount on your first business-style check order is $100. No minimum balance required to avoid a monthly service charge. Accounts with a zero balance for 30 consecutive days will be closed automatically. You will receive the $20 discount when you mention this offer at any First Hawaiian Bank branch, open a new (not converted) Free Business Checking account and place your first business-style check order. This offer cannot be combined with any other promotional offer. Limit of one $20 business-style check order discount per customer or account. We reserve the right to substitute an item of similar value. Offer expires on 10/31/16 or when supplies are exhausted. Account allows for 25 free items (for each check written, deposit ticket processed, or check deposited) per statement period. Excess item fee of $0.50 per item over 25. Miscellaneous fees and service charges do apply.
2 Offer applies to new FHB Business Online customers who enroll by 10/31/16. Offer does not apply to Online Payment service or access through Quicken® or QuickBooks.® After six (6) months, standard FHB Business Online fees apply. See Terms and Conditions of FHB Online Services for more information. You must have a mobile device with Internet to use FHB Mobile Banking. Device must have a rear-facing camera with autofocus to use Mobile Deposit. See FAQs in the "Mobile Deposit" section of fhb.com/mobile.

BSI-CSR AND CARE CNMI

Collective work in restoring and rebuilding communities

Best Sunshine International, Ltd.'s Corporate Social Responsibility team continues to extend humanitarian work in partnership with the Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts, or CNMI CARE, in rebuilding, rehabilitating, and restoring communities.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A CSR representative clears up the home that was nearly flattened by Typhoon Soudelor.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Best Sunshine International, Ltd.'s Corporate Social Responsibility team assists the Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts, or CNMI CARE, with the hauling and removal of debris in one of the homes that the group will be restoring with the Mennonite Disaster Services.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The collective effort of BSI-CSR team disposes of debris from what is left of a Koblerville home that was ravaged by Typhoon Soudelor.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BSI-CSR and CARE CNMI join hands in this restoration work.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rusting and hazardous appliances are disposed of.

Dangerous debris is removed by BSI-CSR staff. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CSR representatives Nate Ada and Fuji Suel remove broken furniture. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Celebrating a Life

In Loving Memory of

Elenita Galeza Francisco

Born on July 4, 1966
Called to eternal life on September 24, 2016

Beloved Wife of Wilfredo and Loving Mother of Philip, Sheena, Mico, Ralph, Neil, Alvin, Wilfredo Jr., Samantha, Shakira, Sharmaine, Troy and Savannah Mae. Elenita worked and called Saipan her home for the past 22 years.

Everyone is invited to join the family for a Memorial Service in her honor, to be held on October 7, 2016, 10:00 a.m. at Kristo Rai Church.

Your presence will be greatly appreciated!

Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay, Maraming Salamat Po!

Francisco Family

EEOC suit settled for $80,000

HONOLULU—The Guam Department of Education will pay $80,000 and provide other relief to settle a charge of disability discrimination filed with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the federal agency announced yesterday.

The charge made to EEOC alleged that a school aide with multiple disabilities was denied an accommodation when the school assigned her to traffic duty against her doctor's restrictions. The charge further asserted that the denial of the accommodation resulted in the school aide becoming ill and being removed from the school in an ambulance. EEOC investigated the allegations and found reasonable cause to believe that the Guam Department of Education failed to provide her with a reasonable accommodation, in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Without admitting liability, the department agreed to enter into a three-year conciliation agreement with EEOC and the alleged victim, thereby avoiding litigation. Aside from the monetary relief, the department agreed to hire an outside equal employment opportunity consultant to conduct effective training for all managers and supervisors on the ADA and to revise its current policies to include a comprehensive reasonable accommodation policy. EEOC will monitor compliance with this agreement.

"People with disabilities have the right to a reasonable accommodation in the workplace," said Glory Gervacio Saure, director of EEOC's Honolulu Office, which includes Guam in its jurisdiction. "Under the ADA, an accommodation is any change in the work environment or in the way things are customarily done that enables someone with a disability to enjoy equal employment opportunities. I commend the Guam Department of Education for working with EEOC to resolve this complaint and for implementing measures intended to protect workers who require an accommodation for their disability."

One of the six national priorities identified by the Commission's Strategic Enforcement Plan is for the commission to address emerging and developing issues in equal employment law, including issues involving the ADA. ***(EEOC)***

High surf, small craft advisory today

An approaching tropical disturbance will cause at least a brief period of hazardous surf along north and east facing reefs of Tinian and Saipan between now and Thursday.

A high surf advisory is in effect until 6pm Thursday.

Waves of 5 to 7 feet will build to between 8 and 10 feet. This will cause surf to build to as high as 9 feet on north facing reefs and 12 feet on east facing reefs of Tinian and Saipan.

Surf is expected to become hazardous by last night. Surf will remain hazardous then begin to subside this afternoon. The surf will raise the risk of rip currents to high. There could also be minor beach erosion along susceptible coastlines.

A small craft advisory is in effect until 6pm Thursday.

For Tinian and Saipan waters, northeast winds will reach 15 to 25 knots in the afternoon. Winds will slowly swing through east toward the south by Thursday. Combined seas of 5 to 7 feet will build to between 8 and 10 feet, with heights up to 12 feet possible in northern Saipan waters.

A high surf advisory means that high surf will affect beaches in the advisory area, producing localized beach erosion and dangerous swimming conditions.

The Emergency Operations Center is advising the public and inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, to avoid sailing in these conditions. Beachgoers and mariners are also advised to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches especially those facing north and east as rip currents will be life threatening. ***(EOC)***

Bordallo responds to H-2B visa lawsuit

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) issued yesterday the following statement regarding the recent filing of a lawsuit against the federal government regarding the denial of H-2B visas:

"The nearly 100 percent denial rate of H-2B visas over the past year continues to negatively impact our community. Thousands of temporary nurses, construction workers, and others have had to return to their home countries because their visa renewal applications have been denied and new visas have not been issued. I'm very concerned that Guam's organic workforce cannot meet our current labor demands, especially with the specialties that many of these H-2B workers provide. While I have included a legislative fix for this specific problem in the FY17 defense authorization bill, I have met with and will continue to be meeting with local stakeholders to discuss this particular immigration issue as well as to continue to build on broader regional solutions to our labor shortages. While it's unfortunate that it has come to a lawsuit, I believe that this simultaneous approach may be necessary to resolve the current impasse in a more permanent fashion. Additionally, I will continue to fight for inclusion of my H-visa relief in the FY17 NDAA." ***(PR)***

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

INVITATION FOR BID

MVA-IFB-16-2347: ACQUISITION OF RIDING MOWER FOR MVA TINIAN
MVA-IFB-16-2348: ACQUISITION OF RIDING MOWER FOR MVA ROTA

Closing Date: **October 17, 2016** Time: **10:00 a.m.**

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
P.O. Box 500861 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the **Marianas Visitors Authority** office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the **MVA** website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
MVA Chair, Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher Concepcion
Managing Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-001

Removal of old Engine, Alternator (No. 8) and Turnkey Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 1 x 8 - 10 MW of Diesel Generating Plant System

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities for the Removal of old Engine, Alternator (No. 8) and Turnkey Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 1 x 8 - 10 MW of Diesel Generating Plant System at CUC Power Plant No. 1, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The solicitation seeks responses from qualified ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS (OEM's) from which CUC intends to select one proposer to negotiate the final scope of work and enter into a contract agreement that best fit CUC's power supply requirements.

The Scope of Work and Solicitation Package will be emailed upon request, by CUC Procurement & Supply Office from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except on government observed holidays. Prospective proponents for this RFP must register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at Power Plant Administration Office in Lower Base, Saipan on **October 18, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to Power Plant No. 1 facility will be conducted. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-17-001 – Removal of old Engine, Alternator (No. 8) and Turnkey Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 1 x 8 - 10 MW of Diesel Generating Plant System"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **November 9, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 20, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, Purchasing Assistant via email address Marcela.Tenorio@cucgov.org and Venugopal Prabhakara, Power Generation APCM/PM via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-002

CONSULTANCY SERVICES, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF SIX ENGINE SYSTEMS

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities for the oversight and management of Supply and Installation of Six (6) Engine Systems, 8-10 MW/Each, at CUC Saipan Power Plant 1, Saipan, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The solicitation seeks responses from suitably qualified entities from which CUC intends to select one consultant to negotiate the final scope of work and enter into a contract agreement that best fit CUC's consultancy and construction management requirements.

The Scope of Work and Solicitation Package will be emailed upon request, by CUC Procurement & Supply Office from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except on government observed holidays. Prospective proponents for this RFP must register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at Power Plant Administration Office in Lower Base, Saipan on **October 19, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to Power Plant No. 1 facility will be conducted. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-17-002 – Consultancy Services, Supply and Installation of Six Engine Systems"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **November 10, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business

license in compliance with the Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 21, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, Purchasing Assistant via email address Marcela.Tenorio@cucgov.org and Venugopal Prabhakara, Power Generation APCM/PM via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

How can you lose nearly $1 billion and be a business genius?

If losing $916 million and possibly avoiding federal income taxes for nearly two decades makes Donald Trump a brilliant businessman, we shudder to think what would make him a bad one.

Making a profit and paying income taxes?

Like so much that involves Trump and his business dealings, this latest revelation remains shrouded in secrecy attributable to his refusal to release his tax returns. Nearly every presidential candidate since Richard Nixon has released his returns, so why not Trump?

The reason for his refusal seems clearer this week than last: His losses approach $1 billion, stripping any shred of credibility from his claims of business prowess.

The New York Times last weekend peeled back the Trump mythology with a story based on the first pages of the real estate mogul's 1995 state income tax filings that the newspaper said arrived anonymously in a reporter's mailbox. Based on the reported net loss of $916 million in federal taxable income for 1995, the newspaper—supported by tax experts—surmised Trump could have used those losses to avoid paying income taxes for as many as 18 years.

Contrary to Trump's claim that people would "learn nothing," from his tax returns, we've learned plenty from these few pages. What we have is a shameless presidential candidate portraying himself as a business genius for losing nearly $1 billion and playing the system to skip out on taxes. Hard-working Americans who face tax burdens have every right to be offended, and to question whether as president Trump would pursue the nation's best interests or his own.

"It's either a unique combination of bad luck or he's a terrible businessman or both. I don't understand how you can lose a billion dollars and stay in business," says Douglas Holtz-Eakin, an economist and president of the American Action Forum, a conservative pro-growth advocacy group.

Trump appears to have broken no tax laws, but the system is badly rigged if Trump can gamble, lose and claim success. Trump plays by rules that amount to "heads I win" and "tails you lose."

Further undermining Trump's claim of great business aptitude was Monday's report that New York's Attorney General has ordered Trump's charitable foundation to stop fundraising because it is soliciting donations without proper certification.

Every American is supposed to pay his or her fair share. We may differ on what that means, but we should agree that it doesn't mean a billionaire can lose and win at the same time. American taxpayers should demand from Trump stop this financial shell game and release his income tax returns.

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I DON'T LIKE TRUMP OR HILLARY... I'M VOTING FOR, UM... JERRY... HARRY... WHATSHISNAME...
HIS MEMORY ISN'T SO GREAT, EITHER...
GARY JOHNSON'S ALEPPO MOMENT(S)
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Why this vice presidential debate matters

By ANDREW MALCOLM
SPECIAL TO MCCLATCHY

Who cares about vice presidents, right? All they do is attend foreign funerals that don't involve Israelis or Saudis.

But wait. This time it's different. And it could change our imminent history.

Americans are about to elect the oldest person to ever become president—Donald Trump is 70—or the second oldest—Hillary Clinton turns 69 this month and collapsed on national TV last month.

Based on actuarial tables, there seems a pretty good chance that one of these vice presidential partners could become commander in chief at some point in the next four or eight years.

Kaine

Pence

So who are these two middle-aged white guys that millions of TV viewers will not recognize when they debate this week?

Their meeting will not by itself determine Nov. 8 results. In fact, the Trump-Clinton debates will not likely decide the election. Polls after the first debate found 2 of 3 thought Clinton had won. Gallup found 90 percent paying attention to debates. But voters are so locked in with their respective candidates that Clinton's support showed only minimal change.

In that case, even the slightest shift among independents, weak supporters or third-party voters could be determinative. Enter the veep candidates whose names and performances will dominate news coverage all this week. And they won't be easily characterized, well, because both are just not that interesting.

Mike Pence and Tim Kaine were both one-term governors. Pence is 57, Kaine 58. Both are Midwest-born. Both are Roman Catholic. Both have three kids. Both have congressional experience.

Neither has run for national office before. So they're both coming in with virtually zero expectations. One of them will succeed Joe "BFD" Biden. So the shoes aren't too big to fill.

And with this campaign, both are developing national party personalities, experience and contacts that could give them a leg up in any future presidential competition. Are you listening, Marco and Ted?

Pence has, perhaps, the more important job this year. He and his gray hair can lend a more serious balance or counterweight to the loud celebrity star atop the ticket. As an experienced, steady pol he is unlikely to step into embarrassing gaffes as Biden has all along or to get sidetracked over beauty pageants.

Pence's longer congressional tenure and well-received years in a House leadership role (12 years vs. Sen. Kaine's three) also give the Hoosier gravitas and valuable chops to talk the kind of political history and policy specifics that Trump won't or can't.

Kaine's stage persona as a kind of hey-there-how-ya-doing jolly guy could warm up the robotic political personality of his ticket-mate. In theory, anyway.

His familiarity to Virginians could help sway the dominion's 13 electoral votes into the Democrat column. Thanks to demographic changes in the prosperous Beltway counties, Democrats have won there the last two cycles after generations of GOP allegiance.

Likewise for Pence and the 11 electoral votes of Indiana, the Midwest's most reliably Republican state in modern history. In the last three-quarters of a century a Democrat has won Indiana only two times—in the 1964 Goldwater debacle and very narrowly in the 2008 Obama hyperventilation, a mistake Indiana corrected dramatically in 2012.

Indiana Democrats like Clinton so much that they gave her 47 percent of this year's primary votes. However, they gave Bernie Sanders 53 percent. Converting his typically younger supporters to the faux progressive Grandma Clinton is proving a stubborn national challenge for her.

Honestly, if the Trump-Pence ticket has trouble in Indiana next month, you can kiss Melania and the White House goodbye.

On hot-button issues both Pence and Kaine toe their party's standard lines. On abortion, for instance, Pence is strongly pro-life and launched a legislative struggle to defund Planned Parenthood as early as 2007.

Kaine calls himself a "strong supporter" of the Roe v. Wade decision. He's received 100 percent scores from Planned Parenthood and NARAL. But he skates the political issue by claiming that while he personally opposes abortion, he thinks government shouldn't be involved in such decisions.

Expect to hear frequent professions of loyalty to Trump or Clinton while both men seek safety in wonky details. Call it Clash of the Bland.

Andrew Malcolm is an author and veteran national and foreign correspondent covering politics since the 1960s. Follow him on Twitter @AHMalcolm.

The case against immortality

By ANDREW STARK
LOS ANGELES TIMES

At a certain age, you may feel as if you're still at life's beginning yet also disturbingly close to the end.

You feel acutely that there's much left to do. You were going to win an Oscar, pick up a Nobel Prize in physics and get elected president, but you haven't even gotten around to auditioning for a film, taking a university physics course or running for dogcatcher. Simultaneously, you're filled with longing for the many things you once did but never will again. You'll never feel the first caress of a new love, never run another marathon.

It's almost enough to make you want to live forever. Actually, for many people it's precisely enough—but not for me. If I were immortal, I know these feelings—nagging anxiety that I have barely got started coupled with deep nostalgia for the past—would simply grow as the centuries piled up, and that would be excruciating.

Philosopher Martha Nussbaum says she'd like to live forever because she can imagine any number of appealing careers for herself—"a cantor, an actress, a psychoanalyst, a novelist." But then isn't the real goal a life hugely increased not so much in length as in width? A life during which it's possible to pursue every one of a wide range of concurrent possibilities?

It's true, if you were immortal, that you might eventually get to be a philosopher and a cantor and an actor and a psychoanalyst and a novelist. But don't forget: Over that vastly extended period, life would certainly not cease exposing you to still further choices. When you finally entered psychoanalytic training in 2100, you'd have to forgo any number of other new possibilities that might at that instant present themselves, such as joining an expedition to Alpha Centauri, or taking a seat on the newly created World Supreme Court, or learning to create art with the previously unimaginable colors recently made visible on the spectrum. You might have crossed one possibility off our list, but you'd have added three more.

For each new path you took, there would be several others that you'd have to leave for later. And then the overwhelming feeling that there are ever more careers worth pursuing, ever more books worth reading, ever more virtual worlds worth exploring, ever more romantic partners worth experiencing—would intensify over endless time. Hundreds of years in, you'd still feel as though you'd barely moved beyond the opening stages of what life has to offer.

Advanced-stage longing would likewise intensify. Nearing 70 in the course of a normal mortal life, you might look back fondly at that moment of electric connection you felt decades ago at the high school prom and regret that it's way too late to realize a long married life with that special date.

If life were unlimited, it wouldn't be too late at all—you'd have plenty of time. But immortality wouldn't make the possibility of mutual enchantment extend any longer than it does now. As the poet Shelley said, love itself would continue to perish even if you no longer did. Sooner or later, as decade upon decade passed, the spark would dissipate. Later still, there would come a time when you would look back on that second-chance marriage to your high school date and sigh with bittersweet wistfulness.

Many activities you once loved, meanwhile, would fall out of fashion or out of reach. As an aging mortal, your knees might make it tough to run a marathon, causing you to envy all the healthy racers from San Francisco to Sydney. As permanently youthful immortal, by contrast, you might remain fit to run marathons over the centuries. But perhaps the beloved urban races of your youth would have long since disappeared, banned because of impossibly hot global temperatures and the fact that future civilizations find interplanetary relays far more exciting. (I joke, but you get the gist.) All of the things you once did have shelf lives. The longer you live, the more of them die, increasing the weight of the time that has flowed through your fingers.

Many of us 50-, 60- and 70-somethings will remember George Burns' quip: Old age isn't great but it sure beats the alternative. There's also truth to the reverse. Death isn't great, but it sure beats the alternative.

Andrew Stark is a professor at the University of Toronto and author of The Consolations of Mortality: Making Sense of Death. *He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

The men who would help Trump govern America

By FRANCIS WILKINSON
BLOOMBERG VIEW

Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, who debates Virginia Senator Tim Kaine in the vice-presidential face-off on Tuesday night, is seemingly decent—political in a thoroughly normal way. Such qualities make Pence the odd man out in Donald Trump's campaign. It's no wonder Trump had second thoughts about him: He doesn't fit.

What sets Trump's campaign apart, beyond the slapdash nature of the enterprise, the baldness of the falsehoods and the ejection seat reserved for the latest campaign manager, is that he surrounds himself with men whose bad behavior complements his own.

That's, of course, subjective criticism. But if you ascribe to certain nearly universal values, it's hard to avoid the conclusion.

If the Trump campaign was not caroming daily, often hourly, between allegations of corruption and illegality and its own exertions on the frontiers of dark fantasy and sleaziness, then the presence of New Jersey Governor Chris Christie at the head of the Trump transition team would be a running scandal.

Christie, who is poised to have great influence over appointments in a Trump administration, has long played the role of the petty, vindictive bully. Yet nothing in that characterization prepares one for the pettiness and vindictiveness of the George Washington Bridge traffic jam engineered by Christie's hand-picked staff.

Bridgegate is nothing like politics as usual, even at its ugliest. Tens of thousands of Christie constituents were abused solely for the creepy amusement of the governor's staff and, federal prosecutors claim, of Christie himself.

The best—albeit most implausible—interpretation of Christie's role is that he merely has horrific judgment and selected very bad people as top aides. This isn't the view of the scandal that Trump once took, however.

"He knew about it," Trump said of Christie in 2015. "He totally knew about it." Perhaps Trump didn't believe his accusation against the governor. Perhaps it was just one of the wild accusations the Republican nominee is apt to make.

It's more likely, however, that Trump would have brought Christie into his campaign because of his belief that the governor was involved in the scandal, not in spite of it. Christie is the type of guy that Trump likes to have around—so much so that he essentially placed the governor in charge of personnel for a prospective Trump administration.

Christie is not a special case. Trump values advice from Roger Ailes, who grafted a political propaganda machine to a news network, evidently harassing women who worked there every step of the way.

Similarly, he relies on Rudolph Giuliani to provide counsel and to carry his flag. Like Trump, Giuliani is nothing if not versatile; he says whatever the moment requires. Are we spreading rumors about Clinton's health today? "Go online and put down 'Hillary Clinton Illness' and take a look at the videos for yourself," he gamely told a television audience. And referring to news of Trump's tax avoidance, Giuliani said: "Don't you think a man who has this kind of economic genius is a lot better for the United States than a woman ... ?" And the list goes on.

Of course, at the center of this web is Trump himself, a man of unrestrained appetites and gratuitous cruelty. The men surrounding him merely reflect the varied facets of his own character. To quiet his unsoothable insecurities, Trump goes to pathetic extremes to surround himself with pretty women. It's remarkable how ugly Trump's men are.

Francis Wilkinson writes editorials on politics and U.S. domestic policy for Bloomberg View. He was executive editor of the Week. *He was previously a national affairs writer for* Rolling Stone, *a communications consultant and a political media strategist.*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Honorable books

I'm not marketing these books per se. It's just that I find the two very interesting. I was a contemporary of the events discussed in the book by Howard Willens and Deanne Siemer *An Honorable Accord*. I also find the other book, also by Howard Willens and Dirk Ballendorf, quite interesting for the subject discussed in *The Secret Guam Story*. I was one of the many newswriters there at the Royal Taga Hotel the whole negotiating time as a government radio broadcaster to cover the negotiation for later broadcast. The books are about the stories that reveal and directly explain the happenings behind the political status movements here between the Northern Marianas negotiators headed by attorney Eddie DLG. Pangelinan and that of the United States headed by Ambassador F. Haydn Williams for our future political status, out of the TTPI. One of the books, the *An Honorable Accord*, authored by then Northern Marianas political status negotiators attorneys Howard Willens and Deanne C. Siemer, discusses the crucial events leading up to the negotiation, the negotiation itself, the resulting Covenant, as well as the feeling of the U.S. Congress on our quest for a breakaway political status.

The second book is a real heartbreaker, especially for Guam. Guam had been clamoring for a political status other than the Organic Act of 1950. President Gerald Ford had signed the authorization to offer Guam a political status like the Commonwealth but government officials blocked the authorization from being passed in Guam. Guam has been asking for a political status since 1899 but was being stifled and shuffled back and forth by the U.S. administrators of the island in order to avoid Guam's political aspiration. I think from 1899 to the Organic Act authorization in 1950, Guam was operating under martial law. A revealing story is discussed in depth in a great book by Penelope Bordallo Hofschneider *A Campaign for Political Rights on the Islands of Guam 1899-1950*. I think these three books by prolific, illuminating writers in their advanced studies are worth your money and time going through them and learning about the events they came across during their researches. Great writers, great researches, and resulting perspectives, and excellent books.

Rudolfo M. Sablan
Garapan, Saipan

If you're on Medicare…

Many of our local senior population is on Medicare, usually Parts A and B.

Part A will cover your expenses if you are a patient, admitted to the hospital, and receive care from the doctors and nurses. Part B will cover office visits and diagnostic tests but not pharmaceuticals (that is Part D).

However, sometimes a patient will receive a bill from the hospital, often a hefty one, and they believe that they have to pay it. The bill is for things not covered under Medicare Part A.

When the bill comes, it's a shock. I know this because I received two bills, totaling $1,700. There was no indication of what the charges were for.

I called Medicare and spoke with a rep. What I learned was important, and you may find this of importance also.

If you are hospitalized and the doctors (or other health care practitioners) intend to employ a treatment option that is not covered under Medicare Part A, they must advise you in advance—both verbally and in writing. This is very important.

Not only are you to be advised in advance, you are to be given an ABN form (Advance Beneficiary Notice of Noncoverage). It must also be explained to you—that these treatments are outside the coverage of Medicare.

Now you have a choice: you can agree to pay, sign the form and check the "yes" box. If you decline, you still sign the form, but check the "no" box.

In other words, if you decline the treatment, you're done. If you say yes, then you have agreed to pay the costs.

What the hospital did in my case was to simply send me a bill—a big one. There was no ABN form to sign, and no one explained anything to me. I assumed that Medicare Part A would cover my stay in the hospital.

A billing person from the hospital called me up to ask about my bill.

I told her, "If you can produce my signed ABN form, in which I agreed to pay for these charges, then I will pay." (I never signed anything). She replied, "I'll get back to you."

I got a similar bill from a diagnostic imaging place in Guam for $600. It was for an echo-cardiogram. At the time I received the "echo" there was no ABN, no explanation, nothing. I sent them a note back and suggested that they try Medicare, since the "echo" ought to have been covered.

If you think you have been unjustly billed, call Medicare, at 1-800-633-4227.

It's one of the few government agencies where you can speak with a knowledgeable rep, quickly, without a long delay.

You may also visit the Medicare website, explaining the ABN:

https://www.medicare.gov/claims-and-appeals/medicare-rights/abn/advance-notice-of-noncoverage.html

Good luck and stay healthy!

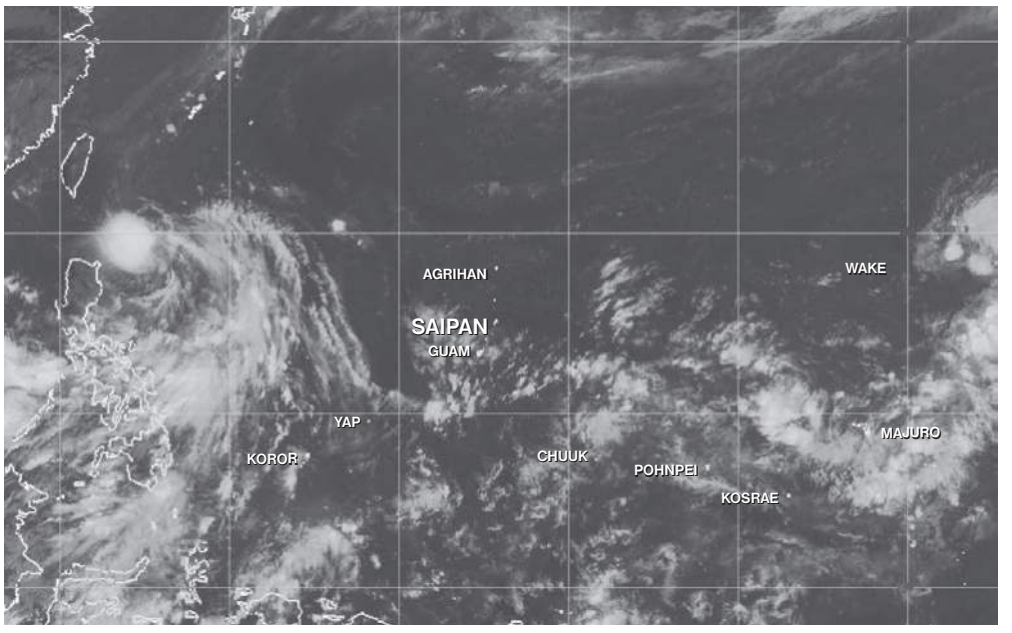
Russ Mason
As Teo, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:15 AM, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present across the Marianas. An upper-level trough sits over the islands while a surface trough extends southeastward from near Guam. Buoys show combined seas of 3.5 to 5 feet. Little change needed to the inherited grids. However, opted to increase showers to scattered through midday based on radar and satellite images. IR satellite shows a cluster of convection over the Marianas, shifting slowly westward. Expect showers to taper around midday and isolated thunderstorms to persist through tonight. A fairly dry trade wind pattern will resume for the end of the week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▼ ▲
Guam and Rota	Mostly cloudy	82 / 89 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	79 / 87 °F
Yap	Afternoon clouds	78 / 89 °F
Chuuk	Decreasing cloudiness	78 / 85 °F
Pohnpei	Heavy rain	76 / 87 °F
Kosrae	Partly cloudy	82 / 86 °F
Majuro	Heavy rain	83 / 87 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▼ ▲
Auckland	Heavy rain	56 / 61 °F
Beijing	Afternoon clouds	49 / 65 °F
Hong Kong	Partly sunny	78 / 89 °F
Honolulu	Mostly sunny	74 / 83 °F
London	Partly cloudy	51 / 59 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	56 / 83 °F
Manila	Afternoon clouds	80 / 88 °F
Melbourne	Morning clouds	52 / 75 °F
Miami	Thunderstorms	80 / 84 °F
New York	Sunny	53 / 73 °F
Osaka	Partly cloudy	65 / 78 °F
Paris	Partly cloudy	43 / 59 °F
Pusan	Sunny	64 / 75 °F
Rome	Afternoon clouds	58 / 68 °F
Salem	High level clouds	52 / 64 °F
San Francisco	Mostly sunny	53 / 71 °F
Seoul	High level clouds	55 / 73 °F
Tokyo	Mostly sunny	70 / 84 °F
Washington, DC	Morning clouds	53 / 72 °F

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- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		
4:41 AM	LOW TIDE	0.16 Feet
11:17 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.68 Feet
5:09 PM	LOW TIDE	1.01 Feet
10:10 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.64 Feet

SUNRISE / SUNSET		
Today	6:07 AM	6:03 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:02 PM
Saturday	6:08 AM	6:01 PM
Sunday	6:08 AM	6:01 PM
Monday	6:08 AM	6:00 PM

MOONRISE / MOONSET		
Today	10:03 AM	9:46 PM
Friday	10:51 AM	10:32 PM
Saturday	11:41 AM	11:21 PM
Sunday	12:30 PM	-
Monday	1:18 PM	12:12 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
PR1572	4:35am	6:45am	1, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:35am+1	3, 7
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju Air; HX: Hong Kong Airlines; LJ: Jin Air; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Business

Google gets aggressive with new phones, other gadgets

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Google ratcheted up its rivalry with Apple and Amazon by unveiling new smartphones, an internet-connected speaker that channels a digital assistant, and other gadgets the company hopes to make indispensable.

The devices announced Tuesday are part of Google's bold move to design and sell its own hardware, instead of just supplying Android and other software for other companies to make products. Google's previous attempts at hardware have had limited distribution and included such high-profile flops as its internet-connected Glass headgear.

This time around, Google is betting that it can design software and hardware to work seamlessly with each other. That's an art Apple mastered over the past 15 years as it turned out finely crafted iPods, iPhones, iPads and Macs.

Borrowing another page from Apple's book, Google is backing its expanded product lineup with the biggest marketing campaign in its 18-year history. The company isn't disclosing how much it will spend, but made it clear the ads touting products "Made by Google" will be ubiquitous during the next few months.

AP
Sabrina Ellis, Google director of product management, talks about the colors of the new Google Pixel phone during a product event, Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2016, in San Francisco.

"They have done some advertising in the past, but it's never been with this kind of 'let us take care of everything for you' way," Gartner analyst Brian Blau said. "This is more like Apple's way of doing things."

GADGETS ON PARADE

Google executives showed off a series of gadgets in rapid succession in San Francisco on Tuesday.

The new Pixel phones, starting at $650, are aimed squarely at Apple's iPhone and could also siphon sales from the biggest manufacturer of Android-powered phones, Samsung.

Android now powers more than 80 percent of the smartphones sold around the world. But Samsung has increasingly been adding more of its own software, including its own mobile wallet, on its phones.

Analysts warned that Google's increased emphasis on its own branded devices runs the risk of alienating Samsung, as well as LG and other longtime partners that make Android gadgets. Google, though, emphasized it still plans to work with other manufacturers, even as it tries to become a bigger player in hardware.

Meanwhile, Google's new Home speaker represents a counterpunch to Amazon's Echo, a similar device that has become a big hit since its release about 15 months ago. Google Home will cost $129, undercutting Echo by $50.

Google also announced a virtual-reality headset called Daydream View, a new Wi-Fi router and an update to the company's Chromecast device for streaming video.

THE PHONE

Available in two sizes, the Pixel phones replace Google's previous foray into smartphones with a Nexus brand introduced six years ago. Google never hailed Nexus as its own phone, but instead positioned it as an example of how it believed the Android system worked best.

In promoting the Pixels, Google highlighted a camera it says trumps the latest iPhone, a long-lasting battery and a dedicated headphone jack—a staple that Apple eliminated from the iPhones released last month. And while past Google phones primarily relied on sales through Google's online Play store, the Pixel will also be sold by Verizon in the U.S.

Analyst Patrick Moorhead of Moor Insights & Strategy said in an email that Google was smart to emphasize the performance of the new smartphone cameras, as "consumers care about this a lot." But he said other features in the new phones didn't seem that much different from what Samsung and Apple have offered in their latest devices.

IMF reduces its forecast for US economic growth this year

WASHINGTON (AP)—The International Monetary Fund is downgrading its forecast for the U.S. economy this year and warns that political discontent threatens global growth.

The IMF on Tuesday cut its estimate for U.S. economic growth in 2016 to 1.6 percent from the 2.2 percent it had predicted in July. The American economy grew 2.6 percent in 2015.

The fund's dimmer outlook for the U.S. occurs even as the Federal Reserve is thought to be preparing to raise interest rates in December.

The U.S. economy has been sputtering since late last year. The main culprit is weak business investment. The fund blames the U.S. investment drought on cutbacks in the energy industry, a strong dollar that's depressing exports and "policy uncertainty" surrounding the November elections.

The IMF says weakness in the U.S. is offset by improving prospects among developing economies. Commodity prices have stabilized after last year's free fall, which badly damaged developing countries that export raw materials such as iron ore and copper. The fund left unchanged its forecast for overall global growth this year at a lackluster 3.1 percent.

"Global growth remains weak," said IMF chief economist Maurice Obstfeld.

The IMF warns that populist discontent—reflected in Britain's vote in June to leave the European Union and the rise of Donald Trump in the United States—could cause countries to retreat from global trade, weakening worldwide growth.

The fund increased its forecast for India to 7.6 percent growth, fastest among the world's major economies. And it upgraded the outlook for Russia—though it still expects the Russian economy to contract 0.8 percent this year as it contends with low oil prices and sanctions for its aggression in Ukraine. The IMF left unchanged its forecast for 6.6 percent growth in China, the world's second-biggest economy.

Pulled down by slower expected growth in the United States, the world's advanced economies are expected to grow 1.6 percent this year, down from the 1.8 percent the fund forecast in July. But the IMF upgraded its forecast for Japanese growth to 0.5 percent this year and for the 19 countries that use the euro currency to 1.7 percent.

The fund's outlook for the United States is a bit gloomier than other private forecasts. Members of the National Association for Business Economics, for example, expect the U.S. economy to grow 1.8 percent.

The Fed has signaled that it is likely to raise U.S. interest rates at its December meeting. Investors put the likelihood of a December rate hike at 63 percent, according to figures from the CME Group.

Regulators expand protections to prepaid debit card users

NEW YORK (AP)—Federal regulators announced new rules Wednesday governing the quickly growing prepaid debit card industry, an effort more than two years in the making which should bring basic account protections to its customers, who are often financially disadvantaged.

Prepaid debit card issuers will have to provide their users with basic account information like balances and transaction history free of charge to customers. Protections for lost or stolen cards will also be expanded to prepaid debit cards. Fees for the cards will have to be more clearly disclosed on the packaging.

"Before today ... many of these products lacked strong consumer protections under federal law," Richard Cordray, director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, said in a prepared statement. "Our new rule closes loopholes and protects prepaid consumers when they swipe their card, shop online, or scan their smartphone."

Once a product whose only purpose was to function as a gift card, prepaid debit cards have become increasingly popular over the last 15 years and have effectively replaced a traditional checking account for millions of Americans. Roughly $65 billion was loaded onto prepaid cards in 2012, the most recent year for which data are available. That's more than double the amount loaded in 2009, only three years before. The amount loaded is expected to double again by 2018.

Sold in most grocery or convenience stores, the cards are largely used by lower income Americans, who are statistically more likely to be young, a racial minority and likely to earn less than $25,000 a year, according to the Pew Charitable Trusts.

As the industry has grown, it has had more than its fair share of controversy. Early prepaid cards carried extremely high monthly fees, even sometimes fees to load money onto a card. The RushCard, a card backed by hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons, suffered a massive technical glitch a year ago that locked more than a hundred thousand customers out of their funds, sometimes for weeks.

The industry's missteps have allowed more traditional banks and financial services companies to come out with their own prepaid cards, including JPMorgan Chase and American Express.

The industry did win one significant concession. The CFPB will allow prepaid debit cards issuers to provide overdraft services, which would legitimize a small, controversial part of the prepaid debit card industry. Only 2 percent of all prepaid debit cards allow for their customers to overdraft, according to the National Consumer Law Center. With the CFPB's blessing, that percentage will likely expand.

Consumer advocates had been pushing hard to ban overdraft in prepaid cards, arguing that many prepaid customers used the card specifically to avoid being exposed to overdraft. But by making overdraft available, it makes prepaid debit cards nearly synonymous in their features as traditional checking accounts.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
18,168.45	2,150.49	5,289.66
-85.40	-10.71	-11.22
-0.47%	-0.50%	-0.21%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.3111	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7565	Philippine Peso	48.33
British Pound	0.7854	Indian Rupee	66.5325	Singapore Dollar	1.3699
Canadian Dollar	1.3183	Indonesian Rupiah	12993	South Korean Won	1112.35
Chinese Yuan	6.679	Japanese Yen	102.879	Swiss Franc	0.9783
Euro	0.8917	Malaysian Ringgit	4.1348	Taiwan Dollar	31.4
		New Zealand Dollar	1.3914	Thailand Baht	34.78

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Nation

Kaine attacks, Pence fights back in vigorous VP debate

FARMVILLE, Va. (AP)—Democrat Tim Kaine aggressively challenged Republican Mike Pence over a long list of Donald Trump's controversial positions and statements Tuesday night, drawing a vigorous defense of Trump's tax history. But Pence sidestepped criticism of Trump's demeaning comments about women, his public doubting of Barack Obama's citizenship and broader questions about his temperament.

Indiana Gov. Pence and Virginia Sen. Kaine, who have received little attention in a race focused on Trump and Hillary Clinton, faced off for 90 minutes in the only vice presidential debate of the campaign.

With the close White House race perhaps starting to tip in Clinton's favor, Pence outlined a detailed conservative agenda on tax policy, entitlements and immigration. He was markedly more prepared and more detailed in his answers than Trump was in last week's first presidential debate. He was also more consistent in painting the Democratic ticket as career politicians unwilling to shake up Washington.

"Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine want more of the same," Pence said. He also repeatedly accused the Democrats of running an "insult-driven" campaign—an ironic attack line given that Trump has leveled repeated insults against Clinton and his former rivals in the Republican primaries.

There was a striking difference in the two men's manner. Kaine, Clinton's usually easygoing No. 2, went on the attack from the start, repeatedly interrupting and challenging Pence. Pence, an equally genial politician, was unflappable.

AP

Republican vice-presidential nominee Gov. Mike Pence, right, and Democratic vice-presidential nominee Sen. Tim Kaine shake hands during the vice-presidential debate at Longwood University in Farmville, Va., Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2016.

Kaine pressured Pence to answer for some of his running mate's provocative statements, using Trump's own words such as dismissing some women as pigs or slobs. He also challenged Pence on Trump's decision to break with decades of campaign tradition by not releasing his taxes.

"Donald Trump must give the American public his tax returns to show he's prepared to be president, and he's breaking his promise," Kaine said.

Asked about reports that Trump might not have paid any federal taxes for years, Pence said his running mate "used the tax code just the way it's supposed to be used, and he did it brilliantly."

Records obtained by The New York Times showed Trump suffered more than $900 million in losses in 1995 that could have allowed him to avoid paying federal income taxes for as many as 18 years.

Kaine, too, defended his running mate's weaknesses, chiefly the public's questions about her honesty and trustworthiness. He said that while Trump was "selfish," Clinton had devoted her career to helping children and families.

Social issues were a bigger part of the conversation than in the first presidential showdown, reflecting both candidates' religious faith.

Kaine, a Catholic who personally opposes abortion but has consistently voted in favor of abortion rights, said of the Republican nominee, "Why doesn't Donald Trump trust women to make this choice for themselves?" He also pointed to Trump's assertion that women should face some kind of "punishment" for abortion, a comment Trump later walked back.

Video of Los Angeles police shooting shows suspect with gun

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Video released Tuesday shows a black man killed by Los Angeles police was armed just before he was shot dead but the footage failed to capture him when officers say he twice turned toward them holding the loaded semi-automatic handgun.

The video shows the man identified by police as 18-year-old Carnell Snell crouching behind an SUV parked at a strip mall and pulling a handgun from the waistband of his sweatpants.

Snell then tucks the gun back into his waistband and runs around the corner of a strip mall as officers chase him. All then disappear from view because they were no longer within the range of the surveillance camera.

Snell's shooting Saturday came amid heightened tensions over police actions involving black people and other minorities across the country. Snell was the third black man in five days killed in confrontations with Southern California police.

Police said the video—posted to the police department's YouTube channel following pressure by protesters to release it—supports the account LAPD Chief Charlie Beck gave defending the shooting.

Beck said the video showed Snell had an opportunity to get rid of the gun but decided to keep it when he ran around a corner of the strip mall, disappearing from the footage that showed two officers running after him.

"Obviously if you're not seeking confrontation why wouldn't you just discard the weapon?" Beck said.

After Snell ran around the mall's corner and out of range of the camera, he sprinted between two houses and turned toward officers while holding the gun, Beck said.

Officers fired three shots that missed Snell, who then climbed a fence and turned again toward the officers while holding the gun, Beck said. Police fired three more times, hitting Snell in the torso and knee.

The video showing the moments leading up to the shooting was made public just as Black Lives Matter organizers gathered Tuesday morning to protest Snell's killing at a meeting of the Los Angeles Police Commission.

Demonstrators at the civilian oversight board's meeting continuously disrupted Beck and commission members with expletives and insults and ignored repeated requests to maintain order. One woman who said her son had been killed by police threatened to kill officers herself.

No arrests were made but the meeting was closed to the public after protesters refused to stop chanting, "Black lives, they matter here!"

Protester Melina Abdullah accused police of selectively releasing a portion of video of Snell's shooting to "posthumously assassinate" his character.

Chicago proposal to revamp police misconduct probes advances

CHICAGO (AP)—Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel's plan to create a new agency to better investigate police shootings and misconduct allegations is moving toward approval, even as critics say it's not strong enough to keep a close eye on a police force plagued by a reputation for brutality and experts say it doesn't match efforts of other cities facing similar challenges.

After months of community hearings about the need for an agency with enough money to conduct adequate investigations, the freedom to take those investigations wherever they lead and the need for input from residents, a City Council committee on Tuesday took up an ordinance recommending the creation of Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) .

The aldermen sitting on the committee voted 21-4 late Tuesday to recommend that the new agency be approved by the full City Council on Wednesday.

In a statement, Emanuel praised the committee's action, saying the creation of the new agency is critical to restoring trust between the Chicago Police Department and the city's residents.

"Our residents and our officers deserve certainty about the disciplinary process, and it is up to us to ensure the right tools are in place for thorough and timely investigations of complaints against officers," he said.

But while the ordinance was hailed by aldermen as a major first step, critics who assailed the proposal inside and outside of Tuesday's hearing made clear they felt it fell well short of restoring the public trust in the department that was shattered by the release last year of a video of a white police officer fatally shooting black teenager Laquan McDonald.

Opponents contend the proposal does not immediately include the creation of a new civilian agency that could provide input and l oversight, relies on insufficient funding and hinges on a hiring requirement for attorneys that could promote conflict of interest.

"It will be independent and the community will be involved moving forward," said Aldermen Ariel Reboyras, who presided over Tuesday's joint meeting of the council's Committee on Budget and Government Operations and Committee on Public Safety. He said if funding is inadequate, then Council ensure it gets more money.

ACROSS THE NATION

East Coast preps for Hurricane Matthew evacuations, damage

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—South Carolina's governor said she would issue an evacuation order Wednesday so that 1 million people would have time to leave the coast ahead of Hurricane Matthew, and residents up and down the Eastern seaboard entered better-safe-than-sorry mode, flocking to hardware stores, grocery aisles and gas stations to prepare for the powerful storm. Matthew was on track to rake Florida before spinning up the East Coast. The Category 4 storm packing winds of 145 mph pummeled parts of Haiti and the Dominican Republic on Tuesday and is expected to head north over Cuba and the Bahamas before nearing the Florida coast by Thursday. At least nine people in the Caribbean have died. The National Hurricane Center in Miami issued a hurricane watch for a 260-mile stretch from Golden Beach near Fort Lauderdale to the Daytona Beach area, meaning hurricane force winds of 74 mph or higher could occur within two days.

Texas man who killed 2 neighbors wants execution to proceed

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP)—An East Texas man who pleaded guilty to killing a neighbor couple during a shooting rampage 13 years ago appeared headed for an execution Wednesday that he wanted. Barney Fuller Jr. asked that all his appeals be dropped to expedite carrying out his death sentence. Fuller, 58, would be the seventh convicted killer executed this year in Texas and the first in six months in the nation's most active capital punishment state. His execution would be only the 16th this year nationally, a downturn fueled by fewer death sentences overall, courts halting scheduled executions for additional reviews, and some death penalty states encountering difficulties obtaining drugs for lethal injections. Fuller surrendered peacefully at his home outside Lovelady, about 100 miles north of Houston, after a middle-of-the-night shooting frenzy in May 2003 that left his neighbors, Nathan Copeland, 43, and Copeland's wife, Annette, 39, dead inside their rural home. The couple's 14-year-old son survived two gunshot wounds, and their 10-year-old daughter escaped injury because Fuller couldn't turn the light on in her bedroom.

Asia

Duterte tells Obama 'you can go to hell,' warns of breakup

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine leader Rodrigo Duterte told President Barack Obama "you can go to hell" in a speech Tuesday that was his strongest tirade so far against the U.S. over its criticism of his deadly anti-drug campaign, adding that he may eventually decide to "break up with America."

He also lashed out anew at the European Union, saying the bloc, which has also criticized his brutal crackdown, "better choose purgatory, hell is filled up."

Since becoming president in June, Duterte has had an uneasy relationship with the U.S. and with Obama and has declared intentions to bolster relations with China and Russia as he revamps Philippine foreign policy that has long leaned on Washington.

The brash-speaking leader also has been hypersensitive to criticism over his anti-drug crackdown, which has left more than an estimated 3,000 suspected drug dealers and pushers dead in just three months, alarming the United Nations, the EU, the U.S. and human rights watchdogs.

In a speech before a local convention attended by officials and business executives, Duterte outlined his disappointments with the U.S., which has asked his government to stop the widespread killings and has questioned whether human rights are being violated. He also described Washington as an unreliable ally, saying Filipino forces have not benefited from joint combat exercises with U.S. troops.

"Instead of helping us, the first to criticize is this State Department, so you can go to hell, Mr. Obama, you can go to hell," Duterte said. Then addressing the EU, he said: "Better choose purgatory, hell is filled up."

In a later speech at a synagogue in Makati city in the Manila metropolis, Duterte warned he may decide to "break up with America" in his most serious threat so far to push relations back with Washington.

"Eventually I might, in my time, I will break up with America," he said without elaborating. "I would rather go to Russia and to China."

In Washington, White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Tuesday that the U.S. had not received any official request from Duterte or any other Philippine official to alter any aspect of bilateral cooperation.

"This is an alliance that is robust and that benefits both of our countries," Earnest said. "Even as we protect this strong alliance, the administration and the United States of America will not hesitate to raise our concerns about extrajudicial killings. We remain deeply concerned by reports of widespread extrajudicial killings by or at the behest of government authorities in the Philippines. The use of that kind of tactic is entirely inconsistent with universal human rights and the shared values of our two countries."

AP

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, left, shake hands with Israeli Ambassador Effie Ben Matityau, during his visit to the Beit Yaacov Synagogue, Jewish Association of the Philippines in Makati, south of Manila, Philippines on Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2016.

Duterte has given assurances that he would not abrogate a 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty with the U.S. and will maintain the long alliance with America, one of his country's largest trading partners and provider of development and military aid and defense equipment.

The U.S. has expressed concern over the extrajudicial killings and urged Duterte's government to ensure law enforcement efforts comply with human rights obligations. Last month, Obama canceled a planned first meeting with Duterte on the sidelines of an Asian summit in Laos after the Filipino leader blurted "son of a bitch" in warning the U.S. leader not to lecture him on human rights ahead of their meeting. Duterte later expressed regrets over his remarks.

Angered by U.S. criticism, Duterte has made a series of public pronouncements that he could scale back the activities and presence of visiting U.S. troops in the country.

Thailand detains Hong Kong teen activist Joshua Wong

BANGKOK (AP)—Thai authorities, reportedly acting on a request from Beijing, detained a Hong Kong teen pro-democracy activist on his arrival at Bangkok's airport in the latest sign of what rights groups said Wednesday is China pressuring neighbors as it tries to quash dissent.

Joshua Wong, who helped spearhead huge street protests in the former British colony, could not be contacted by members of his political party, Demosisto, after he arrived at Bangkok's main airport late Tuesday on his way to give a talk at a university, the group said.

A Thai student activist who was expected to meet Wong was informed that he had been detained at Suvarnabhumi Airport after Thai authorities received a request from the Chinese government about his visit, Demosisto said in a Facebook post.

Wong, who turns 20 next week, was one of the high-profile student leaders behind pro-democracy protests two years ago that marked the former British colony's most turbulent period since China took control in 1997. In August, a Hong Kong court sentenced him to community service for his role in the protests, which brought parts of the city to a standstill for months.

The Thai student activist who was to have met Wong, Netiwit Chotipatpaisal, said in a Facebook post that Wong had "been confined at the immigration in Thailand because there's a request from Chinese government to Thai authority."

He did not immediately give any proof of such a request.

"I have not had a chance to speak to Wong since he was detained at the airport. I was told that he is still at the airport in Bangkok but will not be allowed in and will soon be deported," Netiwit said.

In response to questions about Wong, Thai Foreign Ministry spokesperson Sek Wannamethee said permission for foreigners to enter Thailand "involves various factors and has to be in line with the relevant immigration laws and regulations." He added that the ministry is reviewing the facts with the Immigration Bureau and other authorities.

Demosisto's Nathan Law told reporters that they have been out of touch with Wong for more than 10 hours and could not confirm reports that he would be deported.

"We hope that the government in Thailand could respond very quickly to ensure the personal safety of Joshua Wong," said Law, who urged Hong Kong Justice Secretary Rimsky Yuen to raise the issue with Thai officials on a previously scheduled three-day visit starting today.

Taliban press attack on Afghan city; 12 police die in south

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Fierce gunbattles raged for a second day on Tuesday in Afghanistan's embattled northern city of Kunduz while in the country's south, insurgents killed 12 policemen at checkpoints around the Helmand provincial capital and seized another district they had attacked a day earlier.

The timing of the coordinated assaults was particularly poignant, coming a year after the Taliban captured and held parts of Kunduz before the city was fully liberated weeks later with the help of U.S. airstrikes.

In the latest attack in Helmand, Taliban fighters besieged police checkpoints around the provincial capital of Lashkar Gah late on Monday night, killing 12 policemen and wounding another 11, according to Haji Gran, chief of the city's police district 2.

Lashkar Gah has been under threat of Taliban takeover for months as insurgents have been slowly taking control of Helmand since the beginning of the year, with some officials saying that 85 percent of the province is now under Taliban control—or 12 of its 14 districts.

That includes Khanashin district in the south of the province, which the provincial spokesman, Omar Zwak, said had fallen to the Taliban after coming under attack Monday. In recent days, he said, around 45 members of Afghan security forces have been killed in fighting there and more than 15 have been taken captive.

Zwak said a suicide car bomb attack in district 2 earlier on Tuesday killed six policemen and wounded four others. No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attacks in Lashkar Gah.

In Kunduz, the Taliban began their attack from all directions early on Monday. They briefly raised a flag over a main intersection before being repelled from the city center.

On Tuesday, fierce fighting was still underway with Taliban gunmen using residential homes as hideouts in a number of areas, slowing down the efforts of Afghan security forces to repel them from the city, said the Interior Ministry's spokesman, Sediq Sediqqi.

The Afghan forces were "trying to secure the city," but progress was slow and difficult. At least 30 insurgents had been killed in the two days of fighting, he said. It was unclear how many Taliban were involved in the attack.

Mohammad Yusouf Ayubi, the head of the Kunduz provincial council, said the city has become a battlefield, with fighting going on in many areas.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Attack on bus carrying Shiites in Pakistan kills 4 women

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani police say gunmen have killed four women in an attack on a bus carrying members of the country's Shiite minority in the southwestern city of Quetta. Police spokesman Shahzada Farhat says another woman and a man were wounded in Tuesday's attack. Farhat says the attackers fled the scene on motorcycles and that police have launched a search operation. No one claimed the attack, but the Lashker-e-Jhangvi group has claimed similar attacks on Shiites in the past. Sunni Muslim extremists view Shiites as apostates deserving of death. Pakistani authorities had heightened security across the country to protect Shiites during the month of Muharram, when they mourn the 7th century martyrdom of the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad.

Aussies accused of premediated brief display at Malaysia F1

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Malaysian authorities who have detained nine Australians men for three nights would regard their actions in stripping down to their briefs and drinking beer from shoes as premeditated, Australia's foreign minister said Wednesday. The nine have been in police custody since Sunday when they stripped down to Budgy Smuggler-brand swimsuits decorated with the Malaysian flag in full view of thousands of spectators at the Sepang race track Sunday after Australian driver Daniel Ricciardo won the Malaysian Formula One Grand Prix. Foreign Minister Julie Bishop that their families had flown from Australia to be with the men. She dismissed reports by some in the Australian media that the men's exuberant display was just a lapse of judgment. "It was clearly premeditated. They were wearing the Budgy Smugglers and had bought them in Australia," Bishop told Nine Network.

World

New ban on pangolin trade may help most trafficked mammal

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP)—Because of its distinctive coat of hard shells, the pangolin, or scaly anteater, has been called the world's most heavily trafficked mammal. More than 1 million have been poached in the past decade, threatening the creature with extinction, according to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

Although a global wildlife summit last week banned all trade of pangolins, doubts remain whether that will stop their illegal traffic in Africa fueled by growing demand from Asian consumers, particularly in China.

Commercial trade is now forbidden in all eight pangolin species, according to decisions made last week at the conference in Johannesburg of the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, or CITES.

In Vietnam and some parts of China, pangolin meat is considered a delicacy, while its scales of keratin, the protein in fingernails and rhino horn, are widely used in traditional Chinese medicine. Demand for the two products is causing rampant poaching that is decimating the pangolin population in East and Central Africa.

AP
In this Monday, April 27, 2015 file photo, a pangolin climbs out of a cage upon its release into the wild in Sibolangit, North Sumatra, Indonesia.

The poaching discovered in Uganda and other African countries is only "the tip of the iceberg," said Anne-Marie Weeden, general manager at the Uganda Conservation Foundation. Poverty and lack of conservation awareness encourage poaching, as poor rural people do not see value in protecting animals that can be sold to traffickers for hundreds, even thousands, of dollars.

"People need to have a meaningful alternative source of income and have to benefit from the national parks they live next door to," Weeden said.

Traffickers from Kampala, Uganda's capital, usually drive from village to village to get whole pangolins or scales directly from the locals. The traffickers then sell them with a bigger margin to middlemen in Kampala or directly to Chinese buyers, who are connected to corrupt agents at airports and border points who turn a blind eye to their shipment of scales.

Recently, poachers could sell 1 kilogram of pangolin scales for about $45 to a middleman, who in turn could sell it for much more, between $73 and $100, to agents for Chinese buyers. Prices jump again once the scales reach Asia.

The scales account for about 20 percent of a pangolin's weight.

The illegal trade of pangolins is "booming," said Abel Ahabwe, head of investigations for the conservation network. "The problem is getting worse. One day you are coming up with one way to catch them, but they keep changing their methods."

In April, four men were caught trying to sell two live pangolins in Uganda's northern city of Kitgum for about $15,000. One was a local policeman, who was acquitted while the other three received a three-month prison sentence. Many traffickers are connected to the police or military forces, Ahabwe said.

The Uganda Wildlife Authority said it is aware of the problem. "We are moving in the right direction, with awareness, sensitization, and we think we will be able to deal with this," said Edgar Buhanga, its deputy director of planning. A new wildlife conservation law is being considered that will have stiffer penalties and prison sentences for traffickers.

Syrian government press in their offensive on Aleppo

BEIRUT (AP)—Forces backing Syrian President Bashar Assad pressed their offensive Tuesday on Aleppo's rebel-held zone from the south, after capturing areas on other fronts in recent days. As reinforcements arrived, including Shiite fighters from Iraq, the strategy appeared to be to retake rebel-held areas bit by bit, backed by massive Russian airpower, rather than risk a potentially costly all-out ground battle.

Tuesday's offensive on the city's besieged rebel-held eastern neighborhoods came a day after Washington suspended direct U.S.-Russian talks on a Syria cease-fire—a move U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry blamed on Russia's rejection of diplomacy in favor of helping Assad's government achieve a military victory over the rebels.

The latest tactic of whittling away at rebel-held areas of Aleppo rather than launching an all-out offensive has proved successful in the past: The government reasserted control of the suburbs of the capital, Damascus, and most of the central city of Homs using the strategy.

"The Syrian army and its allies are in a sustained offensive to recapture rebel-held eastern Aleppo," wrote Robert Ford, a veteran diplomat and former ambassador to Syria.

"Unless the balance on the ground drastically shifts, the Assad regime will eventually retake from opposition fighters all of Aleppo and the outlying districts of Damascus," wrote Ford, a fellow at the Middle East Institute in Washington. "This may take months, but the balance is certainly in the Syrian government's favor."

"Aleppo is ... the Syrian crisis and its liberation will end plans to divide Syria," agreed Amin Hoteit, a former Lebanese army general and expert on military and strategic affairs.

Syrian troops and their allies have laid siege to rebel-held parts of Aleppo since July 17, except for a few weeks when the militants were able to break it in August, until it was re-imposed in early September. Soon after the government opened a corridor for civilians and fighters to move to government-held parts of the city, and dozens of people and gunmen crossed after a general amnesty was offered by authorities.

Bahamas next up for Matthew after destructive path in Haiti

PETIT-GOAVE, Haiti (AP)—Hurricane Matthew headed into the southern Bahamas with its dangerous winds early Wednesday, leaving behind widespread damage and human suffering in Haiti's poor, rural southwestern peninsula where the hardest-hit area was cut off by flooding.

At least 11 deaths had been blamed on the powerful storm during its weeklong march across the Caribbean, five of them in Haiti. But with a key bridge washed out, roads impassable and phone communications down, the western tip of Haiti was isolated and there was no word on dead and injured.

Hours after Matthew swept onto the remote area with 145 mph winds, government leaders said they weren't close to fully gauging the impact in the vulnerable, flood-prone country where less powerful storms have killed thousands.

"What we know is that many, many houses have been damaged. Some lost rooftops and they'll have to be replaced while others were totally destroyed," Interior Minister Francois Anick Joseph said.

After making landfall Tuesday night near Cuba's sparsely populated eastern tip with no immediate reports of major damage, the center of the slightly weakened but still powerful Category 4 storm moved back over open waters.

At 11 p.m. EDT (0300 GMT), it had maximum sustained winds of 130 mph (215 kph) and was heading north at 8 mph (13 kph), taking aim at the Bahamas.

Bahamas Prime Minister Perry Christie voiced concern about the potential impact on the sprawling archipelago off Florida's east coast.

"We're worried because we do not control nature," he said.

There was growing concern on the U.S. East Coast, which was expected to come under threat after Matthew made a two-day surge up the length of the Bahamas. People raced to supermarkets, gas stations and hardware stores, buying up groceries, water, plywood, tarps, batteries and propane.

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said she would issue an evacuation order Wednesday so 1 million people would have time to leave the coast. The Red Cross put out a call for volunteers there.

WORLD BRIEFS

Ambush kills soldier in Mali; 2nd UN peacekeeper dies

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—A Malian soldier was killed and two others wounded in an ambush near Timbuktu, an army spokesman said Tuesday, as the United Nations peacekeeping mission said a second peacekeeper had died after an attack in another part of the country's north. Armed men ambushed the convoy of a state official from Goundam who was wounded in the attack about 40 kilometers (25 miles) west of Timbuktu, spokesman Col. Souleymane Maiga said. Meanwhile, a second U.N. peacekeeper died overnight from attacks Monday that targeted a U.N. camp in Aguelhok in the northern Kidal region, spokesman Olivier Salgado said Tuesday. Two vehicles carrying soldiers from Chad hit land mines in the attacks, injuring several other soldiers.

No one charged over detention of Emirati man at Ohio hotel

ELYRIA, Ohio (AP)—No one is being charged in the detention of an Emirati businessman held by police at gunpoint at an Ohio hotel after a hotel clerk raised suspicions he could have links to terrorism. Ahmed al-Menhali (AH'-med ahl-men-HAHL'-ee) was dressed in traditional garments from the United Arab Emirates while at an Avon hotel in June. Police received emergency calls from the clerk's family expressing fears he could have ties to the Islamic State group. Al-Menhali was released after police determined he wasn't a threat. The UAE then warned its citizens to avoid wearing traditional garments abroad. Lorain County's prosecutor reviewed the actions of those involved and says a grand jury declined to bring criminal charges. One of al-Menhali's attorneys says he plans a lawsuit and is disappointed no one has been held responsible.

Environment

Dutch experience shows that America's coastal cities don't have to drown

By MATTHEW SCHOFIELD
MCCLATCHY WASHINGTON BUREAU

AP
A section of Highway 12 at the edge of Rodanthe, North Carolina, was destroyed by Hurricane Irene in 2011. Such damage is expected to become more common as sea levels rise.

ALMERE, Netherlands—A 68-year-old Dutch man with an impossibly long name and a small dog is walking along the edge of a new lake when he stops and points upward.

"Naturally, the water would be up there, you know," says Erik van Tienhoven van Weezel, pointing at an invisible spot about 10 feet above his head. "We live under the sea level, by quite a bit. And we know the water is a little higher each year. Do we lose sleep over what could happen if the dikes break? Do we worry about how we will survive as the climate gets warmer and the sea gets even higher? No. We have adapted for centuries. We will continue to adapt."

As far as Dutch adaptation to rising water goes, van Tienhoven van Weezel is at ground zero. Almere, a city of 190,000, used to be covered by the Zuiderzee, a well-known bay of the North Sea that once cut a 60-mile hole out of the northern part of the Netherlands. But the Netherlands has been using windmills and dikes and a network of canals for centuries to expand the tiny nation into the often violent sea, and the Zuiderzee is now dry land. Almere is an example of Dutch success; about 15 percent of the Netherlands used to be covered by ocean waters.

And that lesson, say European climatologists, is an important one for the United States, where studies indicate that large areas of coastal cities such as Miami are likely to disappear under rising seawaters, not in centuries, but in decades. The key, they say, is for U.S. politicians to stop debating the cause of sea level rise and start planning and funding the works that can stave it off.

"Adapt or die," says the T-shirt of a man walking through Almere's town square. The initials NAP are bricked into a staircase nearby, marking where the Normal Amsterdam Peil, or normal Amsterdam water level, would be, way above his head, were it not for the pumps and dikes that hold back the sea.

In Potsdam, Germany, climate scientist Anders Levermann is chatting about how the world will change in a future of rising seas when he is asked about Miami.

"Miami? Miami is already doomed," he says.

The sea level expert at Germany's Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, pauses, then starts to correct himself. "That's probably not fair," he says. "Miami is, ah. … No, it's just doomed."

Among climate scientists, Miami has earned the nickname "New Atlantis," a reference to the legendary lost continent that slipped below the sea. But Miami is hardly alone among at-risk cities. A World Bank study listed it second among cities facing a risk of "overall cost of damage." It trailed only Guangzhou in southern China, and it's expected to fare only a bit better than New York and New Orleans.

The list of cities facing issues over the next 100 years rings the United States. An interactive map on the website of the U.S. climate scientist group ClimateChange gives an idea of what might be in store over the next 100 years.

South Carolina, for example, would see a sea level rise of 4 feet within 100 years. Hilton Head Island would be further isolated. The Waccamaw River would spread out, leaving southern Myrtle Beach as a peninsula. Texas might see a 3-foot rise before the end of this century, flooding sections of Galveston and other coastal lowlands.

In Miami, the sea is expected to rise a foot perhaps as soon as 2040, and reach 5 feet as early as 2080. At that point, the water starts taking over low-lying areas along the Miami River. Within 100 years, it could wash over most of Miami Beach and start swamping neighborhoods along the river.

Such increases are further off on the West Coast, though not by much.

Too far in the future to take seriously? The Dutch have already approved spending a billion dollars a year for the next 100 years to deal with the threat of the sea.

"This is not a time, yet, for panic," Levermann says. "This is, however, a time to be making plans, for deciding what we are going to do to protect people and cities and nations around the world from the rising water. We do have options. But we need to be making plans."

Unfortunately, in the United States, there is no central planning or discussion of how to cope with such sea level rise. People are too busy arguing about whether water levels are actually rising, and what is causing it, though the science is pretty much settled. Sea levels are going up.

Asked whether the United States has a plan for how to deal with rising seas, Ernesta Jones, a spokesperson for the Environmental Protection Agency, wrote in an email: "The short answer is no. There is no national program (or EPA program) or overall plan to decide what places will be protected using which techniques, or … decide which will not be protected."

Levermann and others say that is a mistake, even if you aren't a believer that global warming is a man-made phenomenon. They liken it to the idea of buying door locks, alarms and other anti-burglary defenses for a home. Nobody does this with definite knowledge that their home will be burglarized. Instead, these things are purchased and installed in the hopes that a home can avoid, or thwart, burglars.

"We can protect ourselves against sea level rise, if we aren't stupid, if we don't deny there is a problem and if we take this problem seriously," Levermann says. "All coastal cities are threatened."

But that doesn't mean that any coastal cities are doomed. Half of the Netherlands exists below sea level. The nation has thrived for hundreds of years because of what the Dutch call "water defenses."

Paul Olsen, a sea level expert at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va., is running a program that's looking at how the United States can adapt. He emphasizes that while the water is rising, there are options. Current U.S. strategies, he says, are "fledgling."

"They don't have the funding or the national attention that's needed," he says. "I don't think we're ignoring it. We've had other priorities. We've focused on terrorism, and al-Qaida and ISIL (the Islamic State). These are the wolves that are closest to the sled. Sea level rise? That wolf is a long ways away. But he is coming."

Olsen says there is no simple and one-size-fits-all solution to the problems that sea level rise will bring. There is no way the United States will be able to surround all of its cities with sea walls.

"The United States is just too big. There's too much coastline," he says. The U.S. has about 12,000 miles of ocean and sea coastline. By comparison, the Netherlands protects 270 miles of seacoast.

The American reality is that some cities will probably be sacrificed. Parts of cities certainly will be sacrificed.

"The U.S. coasts will look very different in 50 years," Olsen says. "We're going to have to learn to be like Venice, to learn to live with water."

More land will be returned to wetlands, he predicts. Cities will move to higher ground and abandon neighborhoods in lowlands. People who elect to stay on the coast will have to adapt their homes for high water.

"You may have to defend a harbor, if a community relies on shipping or fishing. But do the fishermen need to live next to the harbor?" he says. "No. So maybe you defend the harbor and roads to that harbor, but you don't have to save the neighborhoods in low-lying areas. If a community relies on the tourism attracted by its beaches, they may have to modify and save their beaches, and access to the beaches. But sacrifices will have to be made."

Life & Style

Kardashian West assailants still at large after France heist

PARIS (AP)—French police on Tuesday continued hunting for five people suspected of assaulting Kim Kardashian West in a private Paris residence before robbing her of more than $10 million worth of jewelry.

Paris police said they were analyzing footage from surveillance cameras to try to identify the assailants, who wore fake police emblems on their jackets.

After forcing their way into the American celebrity's apartment in the chic eighth district, the robbers held her up at gunpoint and locked her in a bathroom before escaping on bicycles in the early hours of Monday. They stole a jewelry box containing items worth 6 million euros ($6.7 million) as well as a ring worth 4 million euros.

Kardashian West, who was in the French capital to attend fashion week shows, returned to the U.S. Monday

Paris prosecutors on Tuesday declined to answer whether the robbers had received help from the reality TV star's entourage. Kardashian's stylist was also in the residence at the time, and alerted police, but Kardashian's bodyguard was not present, according to the prosecutor's office.

In this June 24, 2015 file photo, American TV personality Kim Kardashian attends the Cannes Lions 2015, International Advertising Festival in Cannes, southern France. AP

The reality star's two children, 3-year-old North and 10-month-old Saint, were in New York with their father, Kanye West, when the robbery happened.

Interpol declined to comment on reports suggesting the notorious "Pink Panther" jewel thieves could have played a role in the robbery, saying that would be speculation.

According to the world's largest international police organization, that gang has stolen 334 million euros ($370 million) in jewels from 380 armed robberies between 1999 and 2015.

Paisley Park given 3-day temporary permit amid zoning snag

CHANHASSEN, Minn. (AP)—Prince's suburban Minneapolis estate and studio complex, Paisley Park, will open to the public after all this week, but only under a temporary permit while officials work out concerns about public safety and traffic.

Under the permit, the Paisley Park museum will be open for tours Thursday—the originally announced opening day—Saturday and Oct. 14, Paisley Park said in a statement Tuesday. The new museum will try to accommodate guests holding tickets for other October dates on those three dates; ticket holders will receive emails.

But the full-time operation of the museum may not happen until December. On Monday, the Chanhassen City Council indefinitely postponed voting on a rezoning request by the trust company overseeing the late star's estate for the complex to be operated as a museum and said Tuesday that it'll come before the council for another vote "on or before" Dec. 20.

Museum officials knew the risks of selling tickets prior to approval of Bremer Trust's request, according to a statement from the city of Chanhassen. Paisley Park said it is also in discussions with the Mall of America on an exhibition of Prince artifacts and costumes, which will be open to ticket holders.

Katie Louden, 30, of nearby Chaska, has $100 VIP tickets for her and a friend to tour Paisley Park on Oct. 14. She said the snag will be an inconvenience for fans who'd planned vacations around touring the museum.

"I don't understand why this became an issue three days before Paisley Park is supposed to open. They announced it was going to be a museum months ago. You would think some of these concerns would have come up then," Louden said Tuesday.

Prince died in April of an accidental painkiller overdose at Paisley Park, the 65,000-square-foot studio complex where he lived. Graceland Holdings, which runs Elvis Presley's Graceland in Memphis, Tennessee, is managing the museum.

During Monday night's meeting, city council members cited traffic and safety issues. Councilwoman Bethany Tjornhom said the community of 24,000 on the southwest edge of the Twin Cities area needs time to consider whether it wants to be a "tourist town" and host an anticipated 600,000 visitors a year, the Star Tribune reported.

The city's statement says Chanhassen's mayor, city council and staff will continue working with Bremer Trust to address all concerns and that the application, and any changes, will come before the council.

The tours were planned to include the studios where Prince recorded, produced and mixed most of his biggest hits; the soundstage where he rehearsed for tours and hosted exclusive private concerts; and displays of artifacts including costumes, awards and instruments plus rare music and video recordings.

Only a handful of fans were walking the fence outside Paisley Park on Tuesday morning. The purple balloons, pictures and other memorabilia left on the chain-link fence since Prince's death have been removed.

AP

In this April 21, 2016, file photo, people stand outside the entertainer Prince's Paisley Park compound in Chanhassen, Minn.

Simon Cowell to judge 'America's Got Talent' through 2019

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Simon Cowell will serve as a judge on "America's Got Talent" through 2019.

NBC said Tuesday that Cowell has signed on as part of the talent show's judging panel for three more seasons.

Cowell, who created "America's Got Talent," was a judge on the hit summertime series for the first time this year. He already knew the ropes: He was among the original "American Idol" judges.

When "America's Got Talent" comes back on the air next year, Cowell will be joined by returning judges Mel B, Heidi Klum and Howie Mandel, NBC said. Nick Cannon again will host.

Source: Anderson Cooper staying with CNN with new contract

LOS ANGELES (AP)—CNN anchor Anderson Cooper is sticking with the cable news network.

Cooper signed a long-term deal to stay with CNN, a person with knowledge of the situation said Tuesday. The person, who is not authorized to talk publicly about contracts, spoke on condition of anonymity.

Cooper's decision may put an end to the possibility he'll join Kelly Ripa as co-host of ABC's talk show "Live." She reportedly favored him to replace Michael Strahan, who jumped to ABC's "Good Morning America."

Cooper has served as a guest co-host on "Live," a sharp contrast to the high-profile campaign work he's doing on CNN—which includes joining with ABC's Martha Raddatz to moderate the second Donald Trump-Hillary Clinton debate on Sunday.

CNN did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Lagerfeld blames Kardashian for being too public with wealth

PARIS (AP)—Fashion icon Karl Lagerfeld criticized Kim Kardashian to The Associated Press for being too flashy with her money following her $10 million heist, while Usher brushed away safety concerns around the ordeal that continued to dominate Paris Fashion Week.

LAGERFELD CRITICIZES KARDASHIAN FOR FLAUNTING WEALTH

Chanel's couturier suggested that Kardashian was partly to blame for the heist, in which the reality television star was tied up and robbed of millions of dollars of jewelry.

"(She is) too public, too public—we have to see in what time we live. You cannot display your wealth then be surprised that some people want to share it," Lagerfeld said after the Chanel show.

"I don't understand why (Kardashian) was in a hotel with no security and things like this. If you are that famous and you put all your jewelry on the net you go to hotels where nobody can come near to the room," he added.

USHER HAS STAYED AT THE KARDASHIAN HEIST RESIDENCE

The U.S. singer who arrived in Paris hours after Kim Kardashian was tied up and robbed of $10 million worth of jewelry—and is familiar with the residence it occurred in—says he's defiant in the face of the crime.

"I feel more secure than ever, absolutely (safe)," said the 37-year-old singer, who told the AP he has stayed in the No Address Hotel—where the heist occurred—and said it still remains a secure environment.

AP

ashion designer Karl Lagerfeld waves to the guests at the end of the presentation of Chanel's Spring-Summer 2017 ready-to-wear fashion collection presented Tuesday, Oct.4, 2016 in Paris.

The No Address Hotel or L'Hotel de Pourtales, is a favorite of A-list celebrities, with past guests reportedly including Leonardo DiCaprio, the late Prince, Madonna, Jay Z and Beyonce.

"It's very unfortunate that that would be the one thing that would represent this incredible week of fashion, so I hope that it doesn't overshadow," he said.

"(Gun crime) like that happens all the time. In America people get robbed everywhere, man. Unfortunately it does maybe take a celebrity to shine a light on unfortunate situations," he added.

COURTNEY LOVE IS UNFAZED DESPITE BEING ATTACKED IN PARIS LAST YEAR

Courtney Love, who sat next to Kardashian at the Givenchy show on the eve of the robbery, spoke of her profound shock.

But she said that it wouldn't make her reconsider coming back to the City of Light.

"As a friend of hers, I feel very horrified. ... I don't know what went on with security," she said.

"It was terrible. ... (But) I don't see the underbelly so much. Maybe I should more. It's a bubble for me," Love told the AP from the Chanel front row.

But only last year, the former Hole singer wasn't so unfazed by Paris turmoil, when she had her car attacked by striking taxi drivers.

"The Uber thing, that was terrifying," she acknowledged at Tuesday's show.

Last June, Love made headlines by tweeting: "They've ambushed our car and are holding our driver hostage," and "They're beating the cars with metal bats. This is France?? I'm safer in Baghdad."

CHANEL'S DATA CENTER

Huge sprawling hard drives in large metallic casing and multicolored wires spilling out of myriad machines was the decor for Chanel's forward-looking "Data Center" ready-to-wear show.

It set the tone for a technological, futuristic collection that riffed on the vivid colors of the cables in the backdrop.

The signature tweed skirt suits opened the show, with two models in robotic masks and galactic white paratrooper boots.

The exploration of the house DNA led on to youthful styles—that were opened up and airy on models in hip-hop-style caps.

Skirt suit jackets sported square Velcro fasteners, instead of buttons, with skirts with a sexy split down the front.

Growing up together, TV and baby boomers were a perfect fit

NEW YORK (AP)—Unlike baby boomers, television has no birth certificate.

TV's arrival, depending on how you see it, can be marked at any of a number of moments in the last century.

Maybe 1927, when 21-year-old Philo Farnsworth transmitted the image of a horizontal line to a receiver in the next room of his San Francisco lab.

Or maybe 1939, when the RCA Television Pavilion opened at the New York World's Fair with the exciting news that RCA's National Broadcasting Co. would expand from radio into TV, and, to spread the word, telecast the ceremony to the scattering of 2,000 TV sets throughout all of New York City.

But the handiest year for TV's genesis is 1946—when technology, optimism and renewed consumer buying power joined forces at World War II's conclusion and gave broadcast television a belated kick-start.

AP

In this Jan. 6, 1953, file photo, four school children watch a teacher giving them a lesson via television at home in Baltimore, Md.

By chance (or is it?), the same year that ushered in the TV age is also seen as the kickoff for the baby-boom generation—the population boom of kids born between 1946 and 1964.

TV was key to the world baby boomers were born into: a newly modernized world where every problem (with the possible exception of the Cold War) seemed to point to a solution that was just around the corner. Polio would be cured! Man would go into space! Electricity, thanks to atomic energy, would soon be "too cheap to meter." Even African-Americans, oppressed for so long, had new reason for hope.

The UNIVAC computer, introduced in 1951, would count the U.S. population and forecast Dwight D. Eisenhower's 1952 presidential win. It could even help volunteers find love and marriage, as TV host Art Linkletter demonstrated on his 1950s game show, "People Are Funny."

Divorce stories cause woman to pause on path to marriage

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have been dating for almost two years, although we have known each other for almost seven years now. He is sweet, compassionate, always puts me first and is the best friend and romantic partner I could ever wish for.

My question is, is two years too soon to know that I want to spend my life with him? We have discussed getting married and we would both like to, but I have heard countless stories about couples divorcing because they didn't wait long enough before getting married, and I don't want to be one of those people. Please help.

LOVING IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR LOVING: In many cases, two years is long enough for a couple to meet, know they are compatible, become engaged and marry. Having known this man for a total of seven years, I would like to think that you have had a chance to observe him in many situations and possibly in other relationships. I would hope that you have both dated others and gained some experience.

What concerns me is that you felt the need to write and ask me this question, because it makes me wonder if you are completely convinced that your marriage would last forever. Premarital counseling might put your mind at ease, and that's what I recommend.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for two years. He keeps asking about a tattoo I have on my ankle and making fun of it. The tattoo is small and has my initials, or so I tell him. I think he knows I'm lying. A guy I dated had the same initials and we got matching tattoos, but I have never admitted it to my husband. Am I lying? Should I tell him whose initials those really are?

INITIALLY CONFUSED

DEAR INITIALLY CONFUSED: Many people today have tattoos, and some of them include the names or initials of former boyfriends, girlfriends and spouses. You should have fessed up at the time you were being married. The problem with lying about something as trivial as this is that it makes one wonder what else you would lie about.

I see several possible solutions: First, tell your husband the truth. The second would be to have the tattoo removed. The third would be to add your married initial to the ones already on your ankle, at which point they WILL be your initials and yours alone—unless you're still using your maiden name.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: I have noticed that you often tell people to talk to a spiritual adviser. As an agnostic, I am curious whom you would recommend I speak to.

RICK IN DENVER

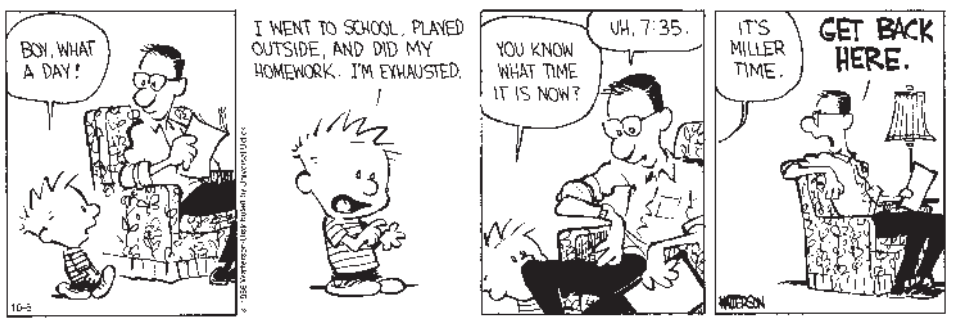
DEAR RICK: In a case like yours, talk to someone who is not personally or emotionally involved with you, such as a licensed counselor.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

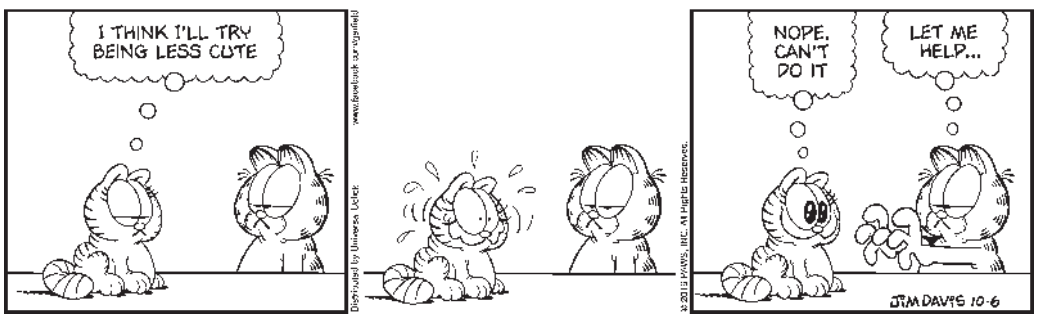
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


BOY, WHAT A DAY!
I WENT TO SCHOOL, PLAYED OUTSIDE, AND DID MY HOMEWORK. I'M EXHAUSTED.
YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS NOW?
UH, 7:35.
IT'S MILLER TIME.
GET BACK HERE.

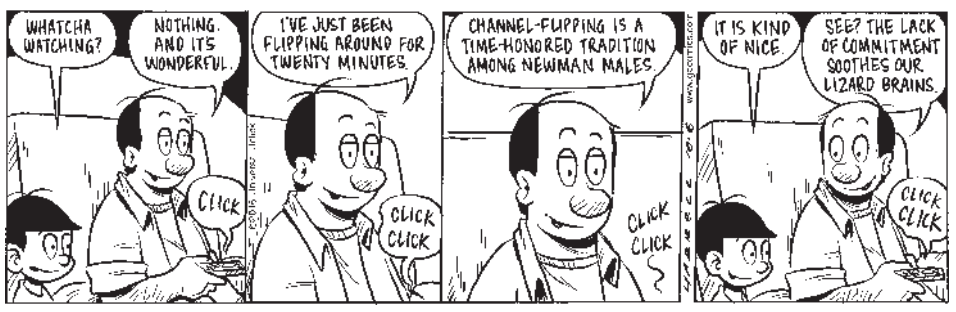
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@Home

By Bryan Basset


WHATCHA WATCHING?
NOTHING. AND IT'S WONDERFUL.
I'VE JUST BEEN FLIPPING AROUND FOR TWENTY MINUTES.
CHANNEL-FLIPPING IS A TIME-HONORED TRADITION AMONG NEWMAN MALES.
IT IS KIND OF NICE.
SEE? THE LACK OF COMMITMENT SOOTHES OUR LIZARD BRAINS.
CLICK
CLICK CLICK
CLICK CLICK
CLICK CLICK

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

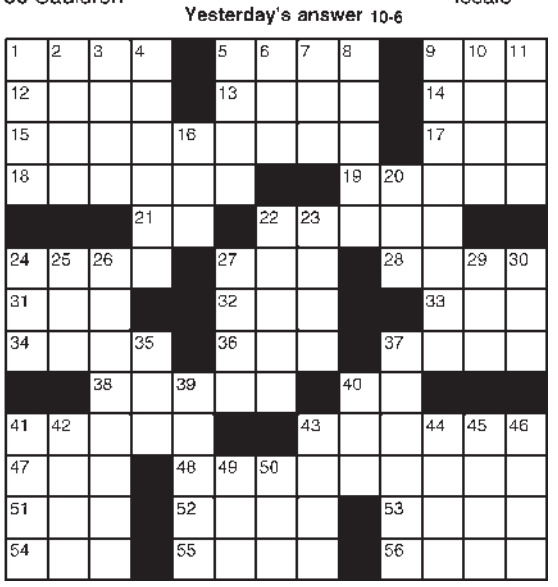
ACROSS
1 Piece of hardware
5 "— Little Tenderness"
9 Chignon
12 Notion
13 Detail
14 Sashimi fish
15 Head honcho
17 Mafia boss
18 Rouse to action
19 Chip choice
21 Freudian concept
22 A son of Jacob
24 "Mad Money" network
27 Sister
28 Blood (Pref.)
31 Italian article
32 "Entourage" character
33 Spy org.
34 Seabird
36 Cauldron
37 "SNL" segment
38 Fragrant wood
40 Kansas City's st.
41 Western resort lake
43 Bow obsequiously
47 Epoch
48 Fine porcelain
51 Knightly address
52 Russian river
53 Saharan
54 Make lace
55 Pack (down)
56 Head, to Henri

DOWN
1 Lettuce variety
2 "Garfield" dog
3 Staying power, slangily
4 Ploy
5 Level
6 Hwy.
7 "You bet!"
8 Revise
9 Bouncing payment
10 "Oops!"
11 Boy, in Barcelona
16 Secreted
20 Contented sound
22 Peer in a box
23 One
24 Snip
25 SSW opposite
26 PowerPoint illustration
27 Wine valley
29 Roman 1002
30 Granola morsel
35 "The Matrix" character
37 "Who cares?"
39 Opening night
40 Soft shoe, for short
41 Try out
42 Met solo
43 Iodine source
44 Ersatz swing
45 "Step —!"
46 Test the waters
49 Mouths (Lat.)
50 "Platoon" locale

Solution time: 24 mins.

C	A	M	P	■	L	A	M	■	U	B	E	R
A	L	A	I	■	A	G	A	■	P	R	A	Y
R	O	Y	A	L	B	O	X	■	S	E	R	E
P	E	A	N	U	T	■	I	O	W	A	N	S
■	■	■	O	L	E	■	S	P	E	D	■	■
M	O	P	■	U	S	H	■	E	L	B	O	W
P	A	R	D	■	T	O	W	■	L	O	B	E
G	R	E	Y	S	■	T	H	E	■	X	:	S
■	■	S	N	U	B	■	A	P	P	■	■	■
W	A	S	A	B	I	■	T	I	S	A	N	F
E	B	B	S	■	L	U	N	C	H	B	O	X
B	L	O	T	■	G	R	O	■	A	R	■	A
S	E	X	Y	■	E	N	I	■	W	A	H	M

Yesterday's answer 10-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jeremy Sisto, 42; Amy Jo Johnson, 46; Elisabeth Shue, 53; Britt Ekland, 74.

Happy Birthday: You will gain through observation and listening to good advice that will encourage you to make alterations to the way you live. Opportunities are available, but only if you stop procrastinating and make things happen. Use your imagination and turn something you enjoy doing into a moneymaking venture. Problems at home will escalate if you overreact or overspend. Your numbers are 2, 7, 13, 22, 28, 33, 49.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Make your dreams come true. Don't let anyone stand in your way or take credit for something you do. It's up to you to claim your position and to collect the rewards. A meeting or encounter will be enlightening. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Making a change will excite you, but before you begin, check your finances to ensure you can afford to finish what you start. A promise someone makes isn't likely to be fulfilled, leaving you with an unfinished task. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Look for ways to improve your life and you will be able to make worthwhile changes that encourage growth and stability. Share your feelings if it will help you find common ground with someone who can affect your future prospects. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Mixing business with pleasure or leaving jobs undone at home due to responsibilities at work will lead to trouble with a partner or loved one. Try to keep the peace by offering an incentive that is hard to refuse. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Take control and proceed with your plans. Investigate the possibilities, but don't make a commitment based on big talk or empty promises. Consider what's doable and what isn't before you take on something new. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't be confused by the uncertainty someone shows when discussing personal or emotional matters. Problems at home will mount if you let someone dump responsibilities on you or make demands that are unreasonable. Make physical changes to boost your confidence. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You'll make a difference to someone who has legitimate concerns about what's happening in your community or family. Suggest alternatives based on past experiences. Make your position and your decisions clear. Try to avoid arguments. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Make personal changes that will raise your confidence and add to your comfort and convenience at home. Designating a space that you can work in comfortably will boost your morale and enthusiasm. Personal gains are featured. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Emotions will surface, giving you reason to wonder if everyone around you is being honest. Trust in what you do and refuse to give control to someone who may not do things your way. Take on a challenge and play to win. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't trust anyone who uses emotional tactics to get you to change your mind. Stick to proven facts and you will achieve what you set out to do. Demonstrate how passionate you are regarding your actions and beliefs. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't give in to someone who is setting you up or trying to take over. Make your move and do things your own way. No one knows better than you what you need in your life to make you feel happy and satisfied. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Trouble will surface if you haven't done everything according to the rules. Be prepared to make the necessary changes without a fuss and you will get back on track quickly. There is no point in fighting a losing battle. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are practical, intelligent and sophisticated. You are adaptable and courageous.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				2	3	8		
	2			9		6		
		4					7	2
			6					1
8	4						3	7
2					5			
9	5					4		
		2		4			8	
		1	2	6				

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	8	5	6	1	2	7	4	9
6	4	1	8	9	7	3	2	5
7	9	2	3	5	4	8	6	1
5	2	4	7	3	9	6	1	8
8	7	6	5	4	1	2	9	3
1	3	9	2	8	6	4	5	7
4	5	7	1	6	3	9	8	2
9	1	3	4	2	8	5	7	6
2	6	8	9	7	5	1	3	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/29

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

GONE FISHIN' Solution: 6 letters

L	B	H	T	U	O	R	T	H	D	O	C	K	S	E
A	A	S	A	T	T	R	A	C	T	E	G	G	S	N
B	M	N	R	T	W	S	N	T	I	A	B	A	E	I
I	B	O	O	E	C	P	G	A	P	E	E	K	L	L
R	O	I	I	I	S	H	L	C	T	L	P	W	B	E
T	O	G	T	L	T	T	E	A	E	U	U	A	R	R
S	H	E	Y	E	T	A	O	R	S	R	B	T	A	O
T	S	R	G	A	I	R	E	R	Y	T	L	E	B	H
O	R	H	E	R	S	D	O	R	E	V	I	R	S	S
C	E	O	T	N	I	S	E	L	C	S	C	C	S	E
K	P	O	A	M	V	E	N	T	L	E	E	T	M	I
I	P	K	R	R	Ⓨ	R	I	A	A	I	R	L	R	C
N	O	I	T	A	Ⓛ	U	P	O	P	O	N	E	O	E
G	P	D	S	F	Ⓕ	L	S	B	P	M	E	G	W	P
B	A	S	S	E	K	A	L	S	C	L	E	A	N	S

©2016 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 10/6

Attract, Bait, Bamboo, Barbless, Bass, Boat, Catch, Clean, Docks, Eggs, Farm, Fly, Hatchery, Hook, Keep, Kids, Lakes, Learn, Lures, Plastic, Poles, Poppers, Population, Public, Recreational, Reel, Regions, Release, Restore, River, Rod, Shoreline, Species, Spin, Sports, Stocking, Strategy, Tangle, Tribal, Trolling, Trout, Tubes, Visit, Water, Weight, Worms

Yesterday's Answer: Luggage

To purchase the **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2**, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

3 Cook (Korean cuisine): $6.55/hr. At least 2 years of professional cooking experience in Korean cuisine required. 3 Waiter/Waitress: $6.55/hr. At least 1 year's experience required. Email resume to yul@hanmisaipan.com.

2 Cook (Korean cuisine): $6.55/hr. At least 2 years of professional cooking experience in Korean cuisine required. Email resume to wing@hanmisaipan.com.

Vacancy Announcement

(1) Househelper - Knowledge in cooking Chinese,Japanese, Thai, Cuisine is a must. Experienced in household chores like cleaning, ironing, gardening, paying bills, and baby sitting. With valid driver's license.

Submit Applications To:
AYD Services Inc. Tel.# 235-7011

Vacancy Announcement

(1) Barber/Beautician – One to Two years experience as Barber/Beautician. Knowledgeable in giving Hair Cut, Hair Colors, Hair High-lights.

Submit Applications To:
Pam Pacific Enterprises Corp.
Tel. 235-7270

MGS
MARIANAS GEOTECH SERVICES

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION: Engineering Technician

DUTIES: Perform field and/or laboratory testing, and assist in soil investigations. Tabulate, prepare, and submit written reports based on project observations and inspections. Coordinate with project managers, technicians, clients, and others regarding the construction site and requirements. Other duties as assigned by supervisor.

QUALIFICATIONS: High school diploma or equivalent, at least 3 years of relevant experience, computer proficient, and good communication skills.

Applications are available at www.marianasgeotech.com and at the Marianas Geotech Services (MGS) office in Dandan. Submit applications by **5:00 p.m. on October 21, 2016**, to Carmen Borja at admin@marianasgeotech.com or at the MGS office. For more information, please contact 234-7645.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

PROGRAMMER ANALYST
Associate's degree in computer science or computer programming or information technology and at least 3 years of progressive work-related experience in information technology. Must have strong practical knowledge in various programming languages, operating systems and relational databases management particularly in midrange Relational Database Management System (RDMS) environment such as SQL server. Knowledge in windows-based and web-based programming is a must.

SALES OFFICER
Provides required product information to both existing and prospective customers. Provides support to the department with regard to sales and marketing and customer service programs activities. Responsible for ensuring good relations with all its customers both existing and prospective ones.

Preferably an Associate's Degree graduate in Sales and Marketing or any related courses. Must have at least three (3) years experience in sales and marketing. Must be able to meet monthly sales targets and have extensive contacts in various industries. Manage account, prepare paper works and variety of reports to monitor & maintain contract services.

Computer literate. Above average oral and written communication skills. Must have his/her own reliable transportation. Can work flexible hours.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan or e-mail it to Int_recruitment@tanholdings.com. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Tuesday, October 18, 2016.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

www.saipantribune.com

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude.
Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

(1) ASSISTANT FRONT OFFICE MANAGER
Minimum of five (5) years of previous experience as a supervisor for the Front Office hotel industry which has more than 300 rooms. Assists with the Front Office operations, including a Call Center, Concierge, Tour Desk and Guest Service operations; Must have the ability to train employees to ensure standards of the hotel are met. Excellent written and oral communication skills are necessary. Must be able to solve guest complaints and work in a high-pressured environment. Must have computer knowledge of PMS-Property Management System such as Opera, Fidelio and Epitome. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) ASSISTANT RESTAURANT MANAGER
Minimum of five (5) years restaurant and/or hotel food and beverage experience required, plus have a minimum of three (3) years of experience working in a supervisory role in Food & Beverage. Proficient with the use of Microsoft Office and the use of Micros point-of-sale systems. Must be able to speak, read and write in English, Korean and Chinese languages. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Thursday, October 20th, 2016.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

MVA-RFP-16-2349: FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT SERVICES FOR THREE (3) FISCAL YEARS

Closing Date: **October 21, 2016** Time: **10:00 a.m.**

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
P.O. Box 500861 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the **Marianas Visitors Authority** office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the **MVA** website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
MVA Chair, Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher Concepcion
Managing Director

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL.: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, : CIVIL ACTION NO. 02-0408
-v- :
ANGELINA A. MANGLONA Defendant. :

NINTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 25, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the rights, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot 345 R 404, situated in Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 345 R 09 dated September 21, 1984, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 84-2049.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 14, 2016, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Dated, this 9th day of September, 2016:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL.: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estates of MATEO M. TAISACAN and SABINA M. TAISACAN, Deceased. : CIVIL ACTION NO. 04-0498 And consolidated case (C.A. No. 07-0289)

THIRD AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of the Estates of Mateo M. Taisacan and Sabina M. Taisacan in and to the following property: an agricultural homestead situated in Ginalagan, Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, designated as Tract No. 22127, containing an area of 25,000 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys' Official Survey Plat No. 2066/79 dated December 20, 1984.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 14, 2016, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Dated, this 9th day of September, 2016:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION TO BID
ITB 1: CHCC/BEH-001

OPENING DATE: **October 3, 2016 (MONDAY)**
BID MUST BE SUBMITTED TO BEH OFFICE IN NAVY HILL NO LATER THAN:
CLOSING DATE: **October 7, 2016 (FRIDAY) TIME: 11:00 am**

SPECIAL NOTICE TO BIDDER

Bid vehicle is offer for sale in same (as is) condition. **ALL VEHICLES SOLD AS IS. THERE ARE NO EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES.**

- Bidder is caution to inspect the vehicles on or before dateline in Navy Hill BEH campus.
- Highest bidder will be notify within 15 work days from the deadline (10/7/2016)
- Removal/relocation of vehicle from BEH campus in Navy Hill is the responsibility of bidder.
- Winning bidder unresponsive within 15 work days to BEH office notification (10/21/2016) will be cancel and given to next highest bidder
- Bided vehicle shall be taken or remove BEH campus on or before October 21, 2016.
- CHCC-BEH office provides an inspection period for prospective bidder to determine the true condition and bid accordingly.

Address all Correspondence to:

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Bureau of Environmental Health

ATT: Director, BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH office
P.O. Box 500409
Saipan MP 96950

PHONE NO: (670) 664-4870/72
Fax: (670) 664-4871

EMAIL: John M. Tagabeul @ john.tagabuel@dph.gov.mp or Stanley Iokapo @ stan.iokapo@dph.gov.mp

Lot No.	DESCRIPTION	UNIT OF MEASURE	MINIMUM BID PRICE
1	**Grey 1997 Nissan Pick Up 4X4** Gov't Tag: FA#00330 LP # 2780 • Vin#1N6SD11Y2VC410745	1-unit	$50.
2	**Orange 1997 Nissan Pick Up 4X4** Go't Tag: FA#00331 LP # 2781 • Vin#1N6SD11Y24C4C411698	1-unit	$250.
3	**White 1998 Nissan Pick Up 4X4** Gov't Tag: CNMI#409958 LP# 2861 • Vin#1N6DD21Y4W0307228	1 unit	$250.
4	**Purple 1997 Hyundai Accent** Gov't Tag:US#30757 LP# 2729 • Vin #KMHVF14N3VU420234	1 unit	$200.
5	**Beige 1997 Mitsubishi Montero** Gov't Tag: US#32924 LP# 3099 • Vin#JA4MR31H4X1004970	1 unit	$150.
6	**Blue 2000 Hyundai Accent** Gov't Tag: US#33942 LP# 3200 • Vin #KMHCF45G8YU065090	1 unit	$100.
7	**Beige 1998 Mazda Protégé** Gov't Tag: FA#00296 LP# 3200 • Vin #:JM1BC1416W0189951	1 unit	$350.
8	**Beige 1998 Mazda Protégé** Gov't Tag: 00293 LP# 4186 • Vin # JM1BC1416W0189335	1 unit	$250.
9	**White 2000 Hyundai Accent** Gov't Tag FA#00188CM LP# 3581 • Vin #KMHCF45G64U530055	1 unit	$100.

INSPECTION DATE(S) EXCEPT WEEKEND & HOLIDAYS
STARTING 10/3/2016 0900 HRS. ENDS 10/7/2016 1000 HRS

DATELINE FOR SUBMISSION OF BID:
October 7, 2016, 11:00 am
BEH Navy Hill Office P O. Box 500409
664-4870/72

Return all Bid to:
CHCC-Bureau of Environmental Health Office, Navy Hill
Att: BEH Director
P.O. Box 500409, Saipan, MP 96950

Your bid envelop must be seal & marked
ITB1-CHCC-BEH 001

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Encarnacion's 11th-inning HR lifts Jays over O's, into ALDS

TORONTO (AP)—Edwin Encarnacion advanced Toronto to the AL Division Series in the Blue Jays' familiar manner—with a big home run.

Encarnacion hit a three-run drive in the 11th inning off Ubaldo Jimenez, and Toronto beat the Baltimore Orioles 5-2 in Tuesday night's AL wild card game to advance to a Division Series matchup against old foe Texas.

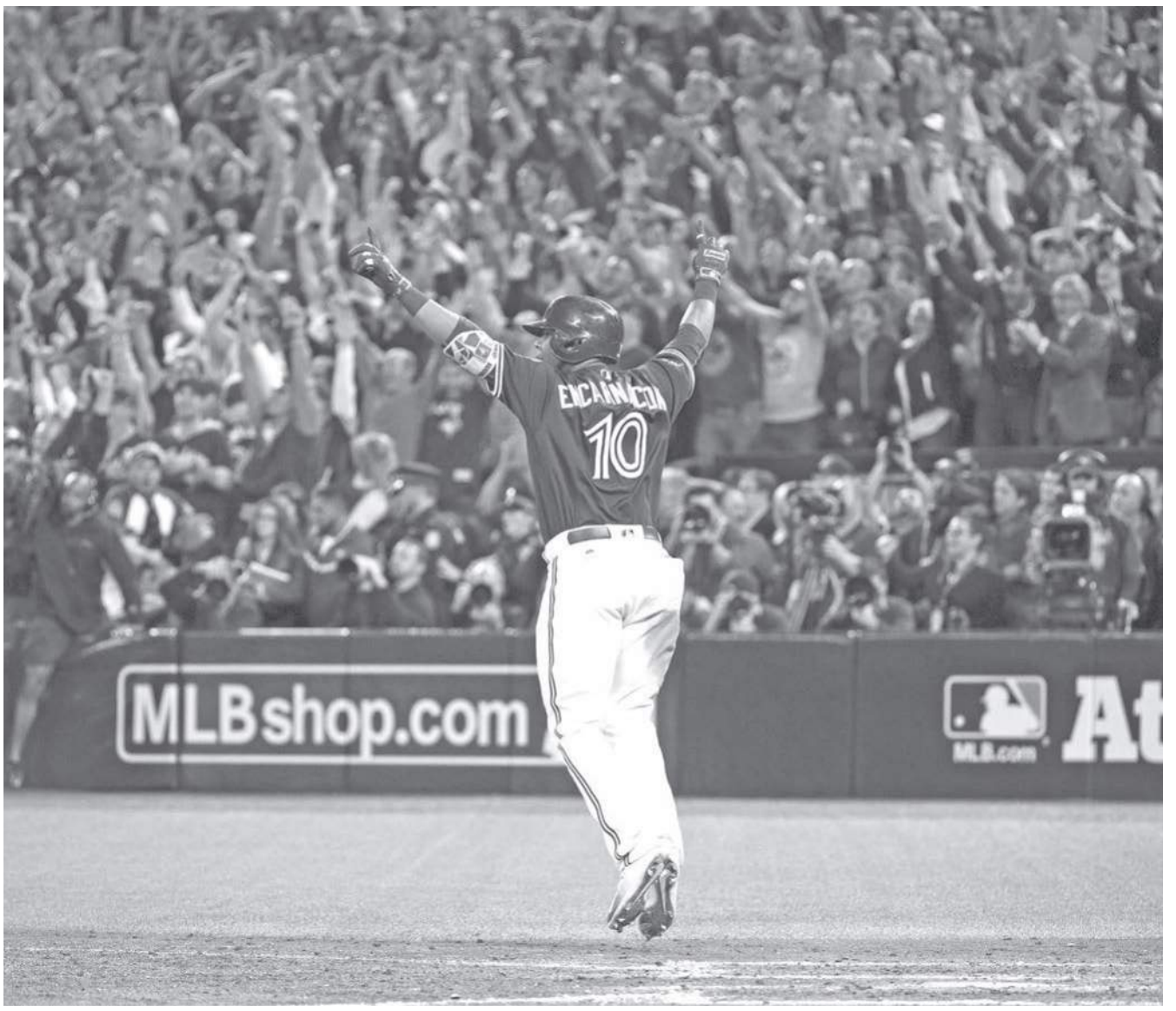
"It was a very special moment and a very special opportunity," Encarnacion said through a translator.

Jose Bautista also homered for the Blue Jays, who open the Division Series on Tuesday at Texas. Encarnacion's homer brought back memories of the tiebreaking, three-run shot that Bautista hit in the seventh inning of Game 5 of last year's AL Division Series win over the Rangers, a shot punctuated by a memorable bat flip.

And the Blue Jays won their last World Series title in 1993 on Joe Carter's walkoff home run .

"I was looking for a fastball and I was trying to put the barrel on it, get a little bit in front because the infield was playing in, and I actually got it," Encarnacion said through a translator.

Jimenez relieved Brian Duensing with one out in the 11th, and Devon Travis singled in a 1-1 pitch. Reigning AL MVP Josh Donaldson singled on the next pitch, and Travis went all the way to third as left fielder Nolan Reimold bobbled the ball.



AP

Toronto Blue Jays' Edwin Encarnacion celebrates his game winning walk-off three-run home run against the Baltimore Orioles during the 11th inning of an American League wild-card baseball game in Toronto, Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2016.

Encarnacion sent the following pitch, a 91 mph offering, soaring into the second deck in left. Encarnacion immediately knew it was gone and raised both arms in triumph, index fingers pointed skyward.

The crowd of 49,934 chanted "Eddie, Eddie!" as Encarnacion circled the bases before being greeted by a mob of teammates. Encarnacion matched his career-best with 42 home runs in the regular season.

Jimenez said he was trying to throw a low slider and induce a double play.

"It didn't do anything," Jimenez said. "It stayed up."

Orioles closer Zach Britton, who was perfect in 47 save chances during the regular season, never got in the game.

"Nobody has been pitching better for us than Ubaldo," Baltimore manager Buck Showalter said. "It didn't work out."

Britton warmed up three times but didn't leave the bullpen.

"It's frustrating but it's not my call," Britton said. "It was just frustrating to have to sit there and watch."

Francisco Liriano retired five straight batters on four groundouts and a strikeout for the win after closer Roberto Osuna left with a sore shoulder.

"The doctor told me that I was going to be fine, I just need a couple of days," Osuna said. "I've been pitching a lot lately. They think it's just fatigue from the last couple of weeks."

Toronto beat Texas in five-game Division Series, sparked by Bautista's memorable homer. The teams brawled in May this year when Bautista was punched in the face by Rangers infielder Rougned Odor following a play at second base.

"It's going to be a very interesting series, and we're looking forward to it," Encarnacion said.

The roof was open at Rogers Centre, formerly SkyDome, where all 24 previous postseason games had been played with it closed.

Bautista led off the second against Chris Tillman with his fifth postseason homer. Mark Trumbo, who led the major leagues with 47 home runs, gave Baltimore a 2-1 lead in the fourth with a two-run homer off Marcus Stroman .

Ezequiel Carrera's RBI single chased Tillman in the fifth.

When Toronto pinch-hitter Melvin Upton Jr. flied out to the warning track in left field to end the seventh, Orioles outfielder Hyun Soo Kim was nearly struck by a can that was thrown from the stands. Center fielder Adam Jones angrily gestured toward the seats, and Showalter came out to register his displeasure with the umpires.

"It's tough when you have that many people in the ballpark and one person does something that reflects poorly on all of them," Showalter said. "It can happen in any ballpark. I don't like anything that puts our guys in harm's way.

Blue Jays fans tossed bottles and debris on the field during game 5 against Texas last year, upset at the call that let Odor score from third after catcher Russell Martin's throw back to the mound deflected off Shin Soo Choo's bat.

Jones wasn't as diplomatic as his manager.

"That is about as pathetic as it gets," he said. "I hope they find the guy and press charges."

Country hardball in the big city: Bumgarner vs Syndergaard

NEW YORK (AP)—Bright lights, big city, ol' country hardball.

Madison Bumgarner against Noah Syndergaard with the season on the line. A pair of towering tough guys you probably don't want to mess with.

Playoff pitching matchups don't get much better.

Toting his outstanding October resume to the mound, Bumgarner will start for the San Francisco Giants against Syndergaard and the New York Mets in the NL wild-card game Wednesday night.

The winner moves on to face the major league-best Chicago Cubs (103-58) in a best-of-five Division Series. The loser heads home for the winter.

"It's going to be an exciting game," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said Tuesday, when both teams worked out at Citi Field. "I mean, this is the fun thing about postseason is you're going to get great matchups like this."

It took 162 games to set it up. San Francisco, the top team in the majors at the All-Star break, struggled badly throughout the second half before finishing with a four-game winning streak. That was enough to hold off St. Louis by one game and secure the last NL playoff spot on the final day of the regular season.

New York, the defending NL champion, was two games under .500 on Aug. 19 after losing two straight in San Francisco. But with slugger Yoenis Cespedes and shortstop Asdrubal Cabrera back from the disabled list, the Mets posted the top mark in the majors (27-13) from that point on and jumped over four teams in the pennant race, booking their postseason trip Saturday with one game to spare.

Both teams finished 87-75, and New York earned home-field advantage by winning the season series 4-3.

"Good major league players, when it comes crunch time, they turn it on," Mets manager Terry Collins said. "So I'm not really sure that momentum going in means a whole lot. Both of us have had to play good at the end—we did."

Citi Field should be rocking Wednesday night, but Bumgarner and the Giants know all about thriving in playoff pressure. The team is 8-0 under Bochy when facing postseason elimination, all since 2012. And after winning World Series titles in 2010, '12 and '14, the Giants want to extend their pattern of even-year championships with another run through October.

The last time Bumgarner pitched in the postseason, he saved Game 7 of the 2014 World Series in Kansas City with five scoreless innings on two days' rest to cap one of the greatest postseason performances in baseball history. His 0.25 ERA in five career outings is the lowest for any pitcher with at least 25 innings in the Fall Classic.

He was 15-9 with a 2.74 ERA and 251 strikeouts this season.

"With us finishing up the way we did, I feel really, really good about our chances," Bumgarner said.

The 6-foot-5, 250-pound lefty, born in Hickory, North Carolina, started San Francisco's playoff surge in the 2014 wild-card game by striking out 10 in a four-hit shutout at Pittsburgh—a similar assignment to Wednesday.

"We have been through this before. We've been down this road. I like this wild-card thing," Bochy said. "I love it. I have to. We have a ring because of this wild card and have a chance now."

The 24-year-old Syndergaard, with long blond locks and the nickname Thor, is no inexperienced sophomore.

The 6-foot-6, 242-pound righty from Mansfield, Texas, joined Bumgarner on the All-Star roster this summer and went 14-9 with a 2.60 ERA and 218 strikeouts over 183 2/3 innings. Featuring a 100 mph fastball, sharp slider and impressive control of several secondary pitches, he won a pair of postseason starts as a rookie last year - including Game 3 of the World Series against the Royals.

"He has the best stuff for a starter in all of baseball," Bumgarner said back in San Francisco.

Last fall, Syndergaard caught everyone's attention with his first World Series pitch: a sizzling fastball well above Alcides Escobar's head that dusted a hot hitter who liked to swing at the initial offering.

"He's not intimidated by anything," Collins said. "He's not afraid. He wants to take charge. His stuff speaks for itself. I think he's grown as a pitcher. I think he trusts his stuff a lot more now."

Syndergaard, for his part, is eagerly anticipating Wednesday night.

"It's just a dream come true," he said. "It's going to be really exciting and I'm looking forward to getting out there and feeling the energy from the hometown crowd, just having an awesome time.

Rape trial involving Knicks' Rose begins in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (AP)—As his civil trial over gang rape allegations began in Los Angeles, Derrick Rose was halfway across the country making his debut with the New York Knicks.

He did address the $21 million lawsuit before the exhibition opener in Houston, saying he welcomed the chance to clear his name.

"I wanted to take it to court because I didn't want to settle," Rose said Tuesday, which was also his 28th birthday. "I don't feel like I did anything wrong. If I go up there and just tell my side of the story, I think I'll be alright."

Rose planned to leave after the game to attend the trial in Los Angeles, where jury selection began earlier Tuesday, though no jurors have been seated. He's expected to be in court by Thursday.

A lawyer for the ex-girlfriend who says Rose and two friends gang raped her while she was incapacitated said that by talking to reporters Rose had violated the gag order his own lawyer had sought to silence the parties outside the courtroom.

"It's unfair to the plaintiff," attorney Waukeen McCoy complained.

A federal judge said he wouldn't make any decision without knowing what was said and hearing from Rose's lawyer.

Jury selection resumes Wednesday. A pool of 50 candidates was asked what they know about the case, what basketball team they root for and whether they can set aside their own sexual moral beliefs and biases.

The two other men accused in the lawsuit, Randall Hampton and Ryan Allen, and the plaintiff sat through jury selection on opposite sides of the courtroom.

U.S. District Judge Michael W. Fitzgerald gave prospective jurors an outline of the case, warning that they would hear testimony involving sex acts, vulgarity and profanity.

"Sex is essentially at the heart of what has been alleged and denied," Fitzgerald said.

The trial threatens to expose details of Rose's sex life, including text messages discussing his desire to have group sex.

The woman has said she rebuffed those offers and never consented to sex with the trio. She also has said she was drugged, though Rose's lawyers said there's no evidence of any drugs.

The woman, who dated Rose on and off for two years, told police he and two friends got into her apartment and had sex with her while she was intoxicated in August 2013. She reported the incident to the authorities two years later. Los Angeles police are still investigating but no criminal charges have been filed.

Rose, Hampton and Allen denied the allegations and said the sex was consensual.

Rose's attorneys said the woman is trying to extort millions from the former MVP.

She was identified in court for the first time Tuesday and introduced to jurors by name. The Associated Press generally does not name people who say they are victims of sexual assault.

The woman had wanted to remain anonymous in court because she said she was harassed online after her name was leaked and she didn't want her conservative parents to learn about the incident. She said they don't know anything about it or her relationship with Rose.

Fitzgerald allowed her to remain anonymous until trial. If he kept her identity from the jury, he said it might appear he was protecting her and jurors might assume he believed her, which could hurt the defense.

AP
New York Knicks guard Derrick Rose takes the ball down court against the Houston Rockets in the first half of an NBA preseason game, Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2016, in Houston.

Heat guard Ellington proudly and painfully brings anti-violence message

MIAMI (AP)—Wayne Ellington is standing in a room filled with hundreds of high school students, all of them silent and hanging on every word that the new Miami Heat guard is saying.

He's not there to tell basketball stories.

He's there to talk about his father—a victim of gun violence not even two years ago.

Ellington plays his first preseason game with the Heat on Tuesday night, an exhibition matchup in Washington against the Wizards that will soon be forgotten. But he's already trying to make a much more lasting impact in Miami by sharing the story of the pain that continues to linger after his father was shot dead when an argument went very wrong.

"Still grieving and it's still fresh," Ellington said. "But I just realized I've got to do as much as I can to make a difference. Every day, it's happening to a different family, to somebody's son, to somebody's father. So this stage I'm on, this platform I'm on, I want to make use of it as much as I can for as long as I'm on it to raise as much awareness as I can."

Seeing athletes try to use their platform with hopes of sparking social change is commonplace right now, starting with San Francisco quarterback Colin Kaepernick refusing to stand for the national anthem in a protest designed to bring new light on racial injustice—and countless other high school, college and pro athletes following suit since.

Ellington and some members of the Heat want to go farther, beyond symbolic acts that occur during the playing of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

"It's important for us to bring awareness to the situation," Heat forward Justise Winslow said. "But even more important is what we do with that awareness. We have to go out in the community, we have to figure things out … the right way to raise awareness. We all might not agree on everything, but we have to figure out something."

All around the Heat locker room, there are players that can relate to what many in the U.S. are dealing with right now.

Winslow is from Houston, where the city dealt with a mass shooting just last week. Hassan Whiteside is from just outside of Charlotte, where the recent shooting death of a black man by a police officer sparked two nights of violent protests and added to the nation's fury over a rash of such incidents. Tyler Johnson and Josh Richardson have mothers who have spent their adult lives serving in the military. Ellington's father was killed by a gunshot.

"It affects all of us," Whiteside said.

Ellington's father was shot twice in the head on Nov. 9, 2014, found behind the wheel of his car in Philadelphia. A man pleaded guilty to a third-degree murder charge earlier this year for the shooting, and is serving a sentence of 30 to 60 years.

Giants' Beckham under scrutiny again after latest outburst

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Odell Beckham Jr. took exception to getting tagged by Xavier Rhodes just after he ran out of bounds, so he got up and exchanged a couple of words with the Minnesota Vikings cornerback.

It was a benign confrontation by Beckham's standards, but still drew an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty from the officiating crew.

And with that, the message was clear: the extremely talented and extremely volatile New York Giants receiver is a marked man now, his reputation cemented as a player who needs to be closely watched for all the wrong reasons.

"It's always, it's just my fault. That's all I look at it as, it's my fault. Whatever you want to call it," Beckham said after having just three catches for a career-low 23 yards in New York's 24-10 loss on Monday night. "I just have to understand if I sneeze the wrong way, it'll be a flag, it'll be a fine. If I tie my shoe the wrong way, it might be a fine or a flag. It is what it is. You have to understand that."

Playing a position that has long been known for outsized egos, Beckham is following in the footsteps of receivers like Terrell Owens, Chad Johnson and Randy Moss, who made a thunderous return to Minnesota as an ESPN analyst on Monday night.

His talent is undeniable and his production is top notch—Beckham already has more receptions, yards receiving and touchdowns than any Giants player has put up in his first three seasons, and Beckham's third year is only four games old. But the price the Giants pay for the elite playmaker comes in the form of tantrums, outbursts and penalty flags.

Last year he was suspended for a game after drawing three personal foul penalties in a vicious matchup with then-Carolina cornerback Josh Norman. It also prompted Commissioner Roger Goodell to back a new rule that allows referees to eject a player after drawing multiple personal fouls.

He has already lost $130,000 in salary because of fines and suspensions in his young career. Beckham was so unruly on the sideline in a loss to Norman and the Washington Redskins last week that coach Ben McAdoo had to speak with him several times to try to calm him down.

Eli Manning backed Beckham earlier this week. But what should be worrisome to Beckham and the Giants is that officials are watching him more closely than ever now that his reputation as a hot head has been established.

Manning said after the game his receiver has to adjust.

"He's got to be aware," Manning said. "People are looking for him and he's got to be smart. He can't afford to do anything that they're going to call. He's brought that on himself, so he's got to be aware of that."

And there are signs the negative attention is starting to wear on other teammates.

"I'm not answering any Odell, those types of questions," receiver Victor Cruz said. "Ask me about him as a player or me as a player or our team. I'm not answering any Odell-infraction questions."

Beckham wasn't targeted until a 9-yard reception on a slant more than seven minutes into the second quarter. Later in the drive, he caught a short pass and was bumped by Rhodes just after he hit the sideline.

His confrontation with Rhodes was a pillow fight compared to the haymakers he exchanged with Norman last year, but he still drew a damaging 15-yard penalty that short-circuited a Giants drive. He clapped sarcastically after referee Brad Allen announced the infraction.

Resurgent Brazil takes on Bolivia in World Cup qualifying

NATAL, Brazil (AP)—Before the arrival of new coach Adenor Bacchi, Brazilians were gloomy about their national team's prospects.

Jeers were common when the Selecao was playing its 2018 World Cup qualifiers, broadcasts of its matches became less and less popular, and some fans even cheered when opponents scored.

But in only two games and two convincing wins, the man universally known as Tite has changed everything. Now, many Brazilians can't wait to see their side play Bolivia on Thursday at the Arena das Dunas in the sunny northeastern city of Natal.

When Dunga was coach, Brazil wasn't even among the top four positions in South America's qualifying standings — each of which is worth an automatic place at the World Cup in Russia. Many fans were worried that, for the first time, their team would fail to qualify for a World Cup tournament.

But after beating Ecuador away and Colombia at home, Neymar and his teammates are now second in the standings with 15 points, one behind leader Uruguay. Bolivia is eighth, with seven points.

AP

Brazil's coach Tite embraces Neymar after he scored his side's second goal against Colombia during a 2018 World Cup qualifying soccer match in Manaus, Brazil, Tuesday Sept. 6, 2016.

Brazil fan Ana Queiroz, a 31-year-old teacher, wasn't expecting to be so excited about the Bolivia game. "If this match were a few months ago, I couldn't have cared less. But after those wins, I made a very big effort to be in the stadium to see it," she said. All 31,000 tickets for the match were quickly sold.

Real Madrid's left-winger Marcelo and midfielder Casemiro, both injured, are the two notable absences in Tite's side. Guanghzhou Evergrande midfielder Paulinho is suspended, but could return for the match against Venezuela on Tuesday. After more than a year away, Paris Saint-Germain defender Thiago Silva could be tested once again, but that is far from certain.

Tite said his selection criteria will be "coherence and respect," a language that he used as a winning coach at Sao Paulo giants Corinthians, and also a hint that he will not be changing his 4-1-4-1 tactics.

The decision to play in Natal will also help Brazil during this period of change. Crowds in Brazil's northeast are usually more welcoming than those in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro in the southeast of the country.

URUGUAY

Also in this round, South American qualifying leader Uruguay plays last-place Venezuela in Montevideo. Some time ago, that would have been predicted as an easy win for the home side. Now, after Venezuela nearly beat Argentina last month, the predictions are being revised. The match against Argentina ended up as a 2-2 draw, but the Venezuelans were two goals ahead late into the second half.

ARGENTINA

Third place Argentina, which is level on 15 points with Brazil, travels to face ninth-place Peru, with seven points. Argentina will again be without Lionel Messi as the Barcelona star recovers from a groin injury sustained in a Spanish league match last month.

CHILE

The toughest match on Thursday is likely to be in Quito, where former standings leader Ecuador, currently fifth, tries to climb back to the World Cup qualifying positions against Chile, the Copa America champion which is struggling in seventh place.

Ecuador has 13 points, two points more than Chile.

Chileans are so worried about their team's current position that their national soccer federation asked FIFA to be awarded three points after a 0-0 home draw with Bolivia in September. The federation claimed that Bolivia fielded an ineligible player, defender Nelson Cabrera.

US soccer team awaits tuneups against Cuba, New Zealand

MIAMI SHORES, Fla. (AP)—For U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann, it's all about one thing: Mexico.

His team is training at Barry University, with two tuneup games coming up. The first is against Cuba in Havana on Friday, the first game for the U.S. on the island since 1947. The next is against New Zealand on Tuesday in Washington.

"The bigger picture behind these 10 days is clear — it's preparing for Mexico on Nov. 11," Klinsmann said.

That game — in Columbus, Ohio — is the first match for both teams of the final round of CONCACAF qualifying for the 2018 World Cup in Russia. The U.S. plays Costa Rica follows four days later.

A number of young players will get their chance in the two tuneup games.

"We want to see them taking the initiative," Klinsmann said. "We want them to come in here and make a very strong impression. I think a good example is Sacha Kljestan. In the last two World Cup qualifying games we told Sasha, 'Listen this is your opportunity, but you've got to take it.' You've got to come in and make an impression and he did that in both games. A similar message to Danny Williams and other players. The door is always open."

Veteran goalkeepers Tim Howard and Brad Guzan are not on the 23-man roster, giving David Bingham, Ethan Horvath and William Yarbrough a chance to show what they can do.

"It's our job to bring along the next wave of goalkeepers and try to give them opportunities," Klinsmann said. "The only way they can go grow is if you let them play."

Christian Pulisic, a promising 18-year-old midfielder, has been playing well with the U.S. and the German club Borussia Dortmund.

"He's a good young player," captain Michael Bradley said. "He's smart in terms of making the right decisions and being a guy who knows the game and understands when he can maybe try a little bit more and when he needs to be more simple. I think he continues to show he's going in the right direction."

Defenders Geoff Cameron and Fabian Johnson and forward Jordan Morris worked out but did not practice. Midfielder Alejandro Bedoya is out with a strained rib muscle.

The team will train Wednesday before heading to Cuba the next day.

JINNOSUKE

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won with his record time of 30.68 seconds. The Tsunami Saipan swimmer crushed the 31.28 seconds mark of Akimaru, who registered the age group record on Oct. 6, 2011.

Aleksenko finished the sprint 34 seconds ahead of Suzuki, who clocked in at 31.02 seconds. Other entries in the 50m freestyle were SSC's Taiyo Akimaru (34.68 seconds), Gil (37.33 seconds), Chavez (44.22 seconds), and Kadokura (45.49 seconds).

Meanwhile, Jinnosuke teamed up with his older brother Lennosuke, Kento Akimaru, and Taiga Sato in the 200m freestyle relay. The foursome went on to post the second best time among the five teams that joined the last race of the day. Jinnosuke and company clocked in at 2:00.46, coming in at second place behind SSC Team B's Christian Villacrusis, David Boyer, R.J. Pierce, and Salofi Welch, who completed the four-lap swim in 1:56.78 and were the lone squad to break the two-minute barrier.

Tsunami Saipan's girls 9 to 10 team, which was made up of Maria Batallones, Seiyul Hong, Shoko Litulumar, and Michelle Chen, finished third after checking in at the 2:258.66 mark. Tsunami Saipan's mixed 11 to 12 and boys 9 to 10's crews rounded out the finishers after submitting 3:25.73 and 3:29.13, respectively. Siblings Kana and Mizuki Suzuki were on the club's mixed squad along with Dan Illahi and Julia Jinang, while Aasish Dangol was the anchor on boys 9 to 10 group, joining forces with Koukie Watanabe, Tellei Rechucher, and Kean Pajarillaga.

Besides the 200m freestyle relay, the season-opening meet also held a 200m medley relay. The Tsunami Saipan quartet of Hans Xu, Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero, Aleksenko, and Sean Gil topped the race after recording 2:41.47.

Tsunami Saipan's girls 11 to 12 swimmers Ayumi Obligacion, Ashley Dangol, Nanaka Watanabe, and Asaka Litulumar placed second after posting 2:42.13, while the club's boys 13 to 14 team made up of Juhn Tenorio, Nelson Batallones, Joseph Zhang, and Kevin Guerrero, had the third best time at 2:42.49.

SHIRLEY'S

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0-0-4 slate.

Five different players made goals for Shirley's lopsided victory over the hapless Tan-Holdings crew with Joannah Carreon leading the former with her hat-trick. Jasmine Phan and Lilian Podziewski chipped in two apiece, while Valeria Myers and Michaela Carreon contributed one each.

It took a while before Shirley's hit the board, but once it got its rhythm, scoring became easy. Podziewski broke the ice with her shot in the 16th, while the second one came four minutes later from Myers. The defending champion went on to close the half with a 4-0 advantage, thanks to Joannah and Phan's goals in the 28th and 34th minute, respectively.

Despite the good lead at the end of the first 35 minutes of play, Shirley's did not let its guard down and poured more goals in the second half for the blowout. Again, Podziewski started things off for Shirley's with her goal just two minutes into the final frame, while Michaela lit up the board anew for the division leaders in the 40th minute.

TanHoldings failed to retaliate despite a couple of attempts, while Shirley's finished strong, drilling three goals in a span of nine minutes with Joannah registering two of them (55th and 64th minute) and Phan firing the other one in the 57th.

With its nine goals, Shirley's tied Matansa for the most goals scored so far in the division. The two teams have 18 each with Shirley's giving up only 6 and Matansa conceeding 11.

Kanoa has 13, as it came off a 1-0 victory over MP United in the second game last Saturday.

Toremy Diaz gave Kanoa its lone goal against MP United to hand her team its second win.

Kanoa will try to get its third victory this Saturday when it challenges the unbeaten Shirley's in the first game at 1:30pm. In the second match at 3pm, Matansa will face MP United.

M-League starts this weekend

Meanwhile, the fall season of the M-League will begin this Saturday.

The participating teams are divided into two groups with Division A made up of Sun Palace, MP United, Matansa, TanHoldings FC, Korean Football Association on Saipan, and Paire FC. Division B has the CNMI U16 National Team, CNMI Women's National Team, Kanoa FC, IFC Thundercats, Dragoon FC, and Shirley's FC.

The two national teams will open the action in the M-League as they collide at 3:30pm this Saturday, while Sunday's playdate will feature four games. In the curtain-raiser at 12:30pm, Sun Palace will duel MP United, while in the second tiff at 2pm, Matansa will take on TanHoldings. Both matches will be played at the Oleai Sports Complex Field. The two other pairings are Kanoa vs IFC Thundercats at 2pm at the Hopwood Junior High School Field and Dragoon vs Shirley's at 3:30pm back at the Oleai pitch.

CAROL

From Page 28

win. The two Pacific Oceania players then gassed out in the second set, allowing their foes to cruise to a 6-1 triumph and send the game in a super-tie-breaker third set.

In the deciding set, Lee and Rengiil got their acts together and made a big comeback with a tough 10-8 triumph that moved them to the quarterfinals. In the Round of 8 game, which will be played today, Lee and Rengiil will square off against Japan's Sophie Hamada and New Zealand's Sophie Michl, who came off an upset over the No. 7 seed Kiwi duo of Kalachova and Ruby Spencer, 6-4, 6-2.

2016 NMIFA Youth Fall League Boys U14

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MP United Football Club's Chris Kim faces two TanHoldings FC defenders during the first half of their boys U14 division game in the 2016 NMIFA Youth Fall League last month at the Koblerville Elementary School.

MP United's Go Sekiguchi, left, tries to disrupt the dribble of a TanHoldings FC player.

MP United's Rintaro Miyawaki, right, dribbles away from the defense of TanHoldings FC's Thaiphi Austria.

TanHoldings FC's Ezekiel Canape gets away from his defenders.

TanHoldings' Mark Esalan, left, is closely guarded by MP United's Go Sekiguchi.

MP United's Eun Syu Hahn, left, reaches in for the ball, while TanHoldings' Joshua Waldo tries to keep possession.

MP United's Rinto Takahashi kicks the ball, while TanHoldings' John Paul Cruz sticks close to him.

TanHoldings' John Guiller Canape, right, receives a pass from his teammate, while MP United's Rintaro Miyawaki, left, attempts to catch up on defense.

Encarnacion's 11th-inning HR lifts Jays over O's, into ALDS

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Sports

Rape trial involving Knicks' Rose begins in Los Angeles

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Contrasting victories for Carol

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI's Carol Lee, seen here rushing to the net during training at the OTF/ITF facility in Fiji this year, is in the quarterfinals of the singles and doubles events of the ITF Waikato-Bays Under 18s Championships in New Zealand.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI junior player Carol Lee played back-to-back games on the same court in the ITF Waikato-Bays Under 18s Championships and won both of them to make it to the quarterfinals of the singles and doubles competitions.

Lee first saw action in the singles event on Court 12 at the Waikato Tennis Centre in East Hamilton, New Zealand yesterday morning and nearly shutdown Kiwi qualifier Cayla McInroy, 6-0, 6-1, in their third round match at the bottom half of the draw.

The third-seeded Lee allowed the least points among the Round of 8 qualifiers in the singles field. The top-ranked Lisa Mays of Australia also swept her foe, but gave up seven points to Japanese and No. 13 Yuna Ohashi, 6-3, 6-4. No. 2 Ashleigh Harvey of New Zealand blanked Australia's Georgia Townsend in the first set, 6-0, but labored in the second before winning, 6-3.

The other quarterfinalists in the singles event were New Zealand's Oleksandra Kalachova, Janvhi Clark, Cristy Robinson, and Brooke Kenny, and Australia's Ivana Popovic. Kalachova downed Danielle Moris, 6-2, 6-4; Clark slipped past Chiara Tommaso, 1-6, 6-0,6-4; Robinson defeated Victoria Hartland, 6-2, 6-3; and Kenny prevailed over Helena Spiris, 6-3, 6-4; The ninth-ranked Popovic stunned No. 6 seed Caitlin Ward, 6-1, 6-2, and will challenge Lee in the quarterfinal round.

After securing a Round of 8 slots in the singles event, Lee rested for only a couple of hours and returned to Court 12 with partner Ayana Rengiil of Palau to play an extended game versus the pair of Japan's Asuka Kata and Australia's Gabriella Ioannou.

While Lee eased her way to a victory in the first set of her singles match against McInroy, the former and Rengiil went neck-and-neck opposite Kata and Ioannou before escaping with a 7-6 (5)

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Shirley's stays on top; Kanoa wins

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Shirley's Football Club kept its perfect record in the girls U15 division of the 2016 NMIFA Youth Fall League following a 9-0 demolition of TanHoldings FC last Saturday at the Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School Field.

The defending champion now has a 3-0-0 win-draw-loss mark to remain on top of the team standings in the five-squad field, which also has Matansa (2-0-1), Kanoa (2-0-1), and MP United (1-0-2). TanHoldings is at the bottom of the leaderboard with its dismal

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Shirley's Football Club's Katrina Costales, left, kicks the ball, while her two teammates step into the play during their girls U15 game in Week 2 of the NMIFA fall league at the at the Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School Field.

Jinnosuke, Isaiah set swim records

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Forth of five parts

Saipan Swim Club's Jinnosuke Suzuki and Tsunami Saipan's Isaiah Aleksenko shattered records in the boys 9 to 10 age groups during the Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation Opening Meet held last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

Suzuki

Aleksenko

Suzuki broke the 100m and 200m freestyle marks in the division, while Aleksenko did the same in the 50m freestyle.

The SSC swimmer completed the 100m freestyle race in 1:06.93 to eclipse the 1:07.91 Ryuto Yanai of Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan posted on March 22, 2014. Suzuki, besides setting a new record in the boys 9 to 10 age group, also won the 100m freestyle race against six other swimmers. He prevailed against Aleksenko (1:07.93), fellow SSC swimmers Taiyo Akimaru (1:14.93), Wataru Kadokura (1:40.16), and Mark Jainier Chavez (1:41.56) and Tsunami Saipan's Sean Gil (1:25.38) and Kean Pajarillaga (2:03.28).

Earlier in the 200m swim, Suzuki's 2:24.58 surpassed the five-year mark of SSC's Kento Akimaru. Akumaru's record of 2:28.04 was registered on Oct. 15, 2011.

Again, Suzuki ruled the 200m freestyle race with his record-setting time. He defeated Aleksenko anew (2:26.83), Gil (2:59.37), and Chavez (3:32.56), who all got personal best marks, and Arman Rechucher (3:38.04) of Tsunami Saipan.

Aleksenko and Suzuki squared off anew in the 50m freestyle event and this time the former

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